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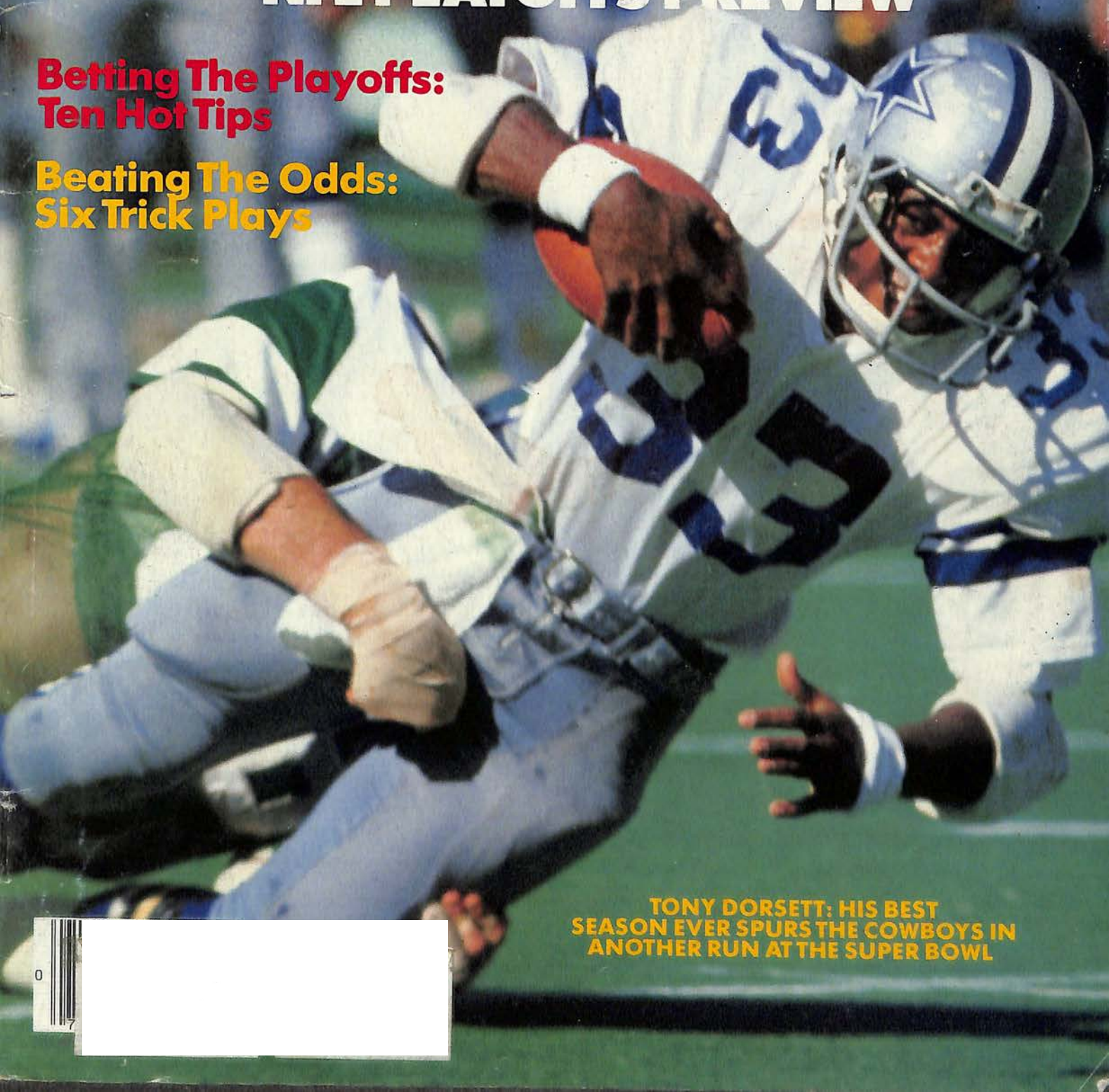
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Who Wins—And Why

NFL PLAYOFFS PREVIEW

**Betting The Playoffs:
Ten Hot Tips**

**Beating The Odds:
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**TONY DORSETT: HIS BEST
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JANUARY 1982

VOL. 73

NO. 1

MAGAZINE



COVER STORY

22 Playbook for the Playoffs by Kevin Lamb and Norm Hitzges

Hey, Coach. The NFL Playoffs are a whole new ballgame. And, contrary to popular belief, it's no time to play it safe. The name of this game, says history, is The Big Play. Go for it. (Hey, Betting Man. Take note. You can win too.)

26 Boarding School by Harvey Araton

There's more to rebounding than being 7 feet tall and jumping high. Learn a few lessons from Professors Bird, Roundfield, Jones and Lucas—the class off the glass in the NBA.

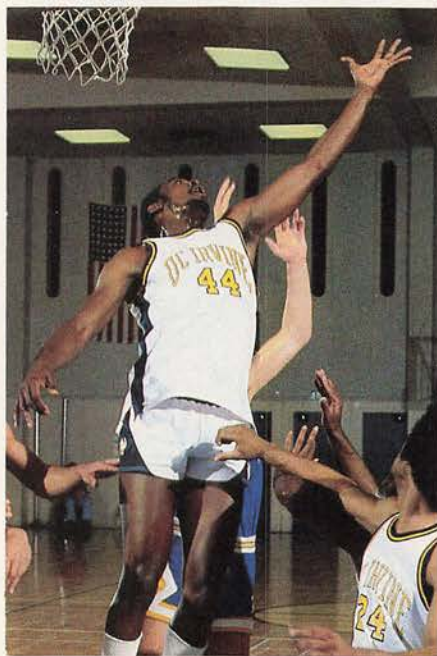
31 Wholly Moses by Ray Buck

Go down, Moses. Down to the low post. That's where Moses Malone, already basketball's best rebounder, is making his bid to become the best in the game, period.



45 Kevin Who? by Stu Black

Kevin Magee is the name. Basketball is his game. Irvine is his school. The Anteaters are his team. So who is he? He's the best college basketball player you've never heard of.



34 A Master's Plan by Will McDonough

Rebuilding is no longer a dirty word around the NFL—thanks to Chuck Knox. His rapid resurrection of the Buffalo Bills has given new hope to losing teams—and started a series of surprise stories around the NFL.



40 Cure for the Blues by David Murray

Mike Liut is different. He's a goalie from the past who's the goalie of the future. In St. Louis, they call him Saint Liut—his greatest save was the franchise.



14 Interview: Gene Upshaw by Lawrence Linderman

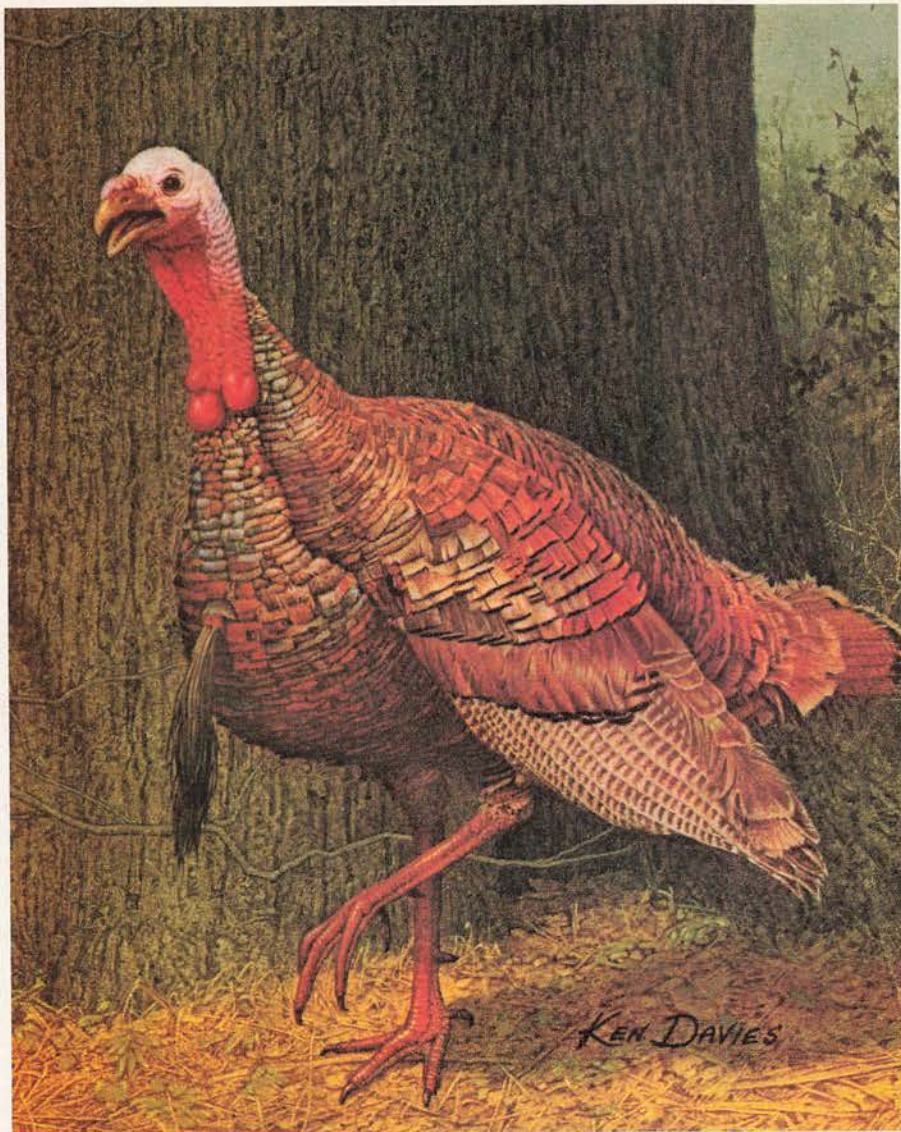
The air is thick with strike talk in the NFL. Upshaw, Oakland guard and players' union chief, tells why saving the 1982 season requires a 55 percent solution. The owners answer? No way.

49 Super Bowl XVI: A Special Section by Dave Anderson

Every Super Bowl creates its Super Heroes. Some are stars, some are surprises. From Joe Namath to Bob Kuechenberg, here is the All-Time Super Bowl Team.

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LETTERS

Don't Bad Mouth the Big Ten

As a Big Ten fan who currently attends Ohio State, I take exception to your article, "The Decline and Fall of the Big Ten" (November). As the year progressed, more and more of the Big Ten teams moved into the Top 20, including Iowa, Purdue, Wisconsin and, of course, Michigan. While I agree that the conference is no longer lopsided with the Big Two dominance of the past, I also maintain that it has made itself the best in the country once again.

Devon N. Phelps
Columbus, Ohio

Mike Downey certainly chose an inappropriate season to chronicle the fall of the Big Ten. As many as five Big Ten teams have been rated in the Top 20 in both major polls. Currently there are four, three of these in the top 15. Perhaps this is why the third largest crowd ever to see a collegiate game (106,000) attended the Iowa-Michigan showdown. Obviously the fans don't think the Big Ten is suffering much of a decline. And, if Iowa's Hayden Fry was a bit disgruntled to see Penn State, USC, UCLA and Nebraska on future Hawkeye schedules, isn't this a testimonial to his sanity? I'd like to see the reaction of any major college coach who finds his upcoming schedules burdened with such foes!

P.T. Maggio, D.D.S.
Waukegan, Wisconsin

I couldn't believe Mike Downey's article. Where was Mr. Downey this fall? If anything, the Big Ten has been the most resurgent conference in the country. It has mauled the Pac-10 and claimed victories over Nebraska and Notre Dame (twice). I agree it may still be the Big Two and Little Eight, but now the Big Two are Iowa and Wisconsin.

Greg Chiri
Madrid, Iowa

Mike Downey's article was a classic case of counting one's chickens before they're hatched. He proclaimed Michigan as the Big Ten conference champion before the season was over; in fact, before it had really started. Well, Mr. Downey, I give you the University of

Iowa. Pry your foot from your mouth and get a taste of victory, Hawkeye style. Iowa 10-Nebraska 7, Iowa 20-UCLA 7, Iowa 64-Northwestern 0, Iowa 42-Indiana 28, and the big one, Iowa 9-Michigan 7. Iowa's victories are a product of a superior defense, a sound offense, a brilliant football coach and the best damn fans in the nation. An article on the *balance* of the Big Ten would have been more appropriate. Sorry, Mike Downey. As a former Detroitian, I expected more from the *Free Press*, but now I'm a Hawkeye and an Iowan and darn proud of it. See you in Pasadena.

John Beumler
Coralville, Iowa

Yes, it has been a surprisingly wide-open season in the Big Ten, but let's watch the final wire service rankings before proclaiming parity. At this writing, it was once again Michigan at the top of the Big Ten. The Wolverines were also the only school in the conference ranked in the AP Top 20. Perhaps the more things change, the more they stay the same—Ed.

Satisfied Sam

I want to thank Charles Barnard for his recent story on me and the Cleveland Browns ("Sweet Sam," November). I have received several letters from fans who have read the piece and commented most favorably on it. I wanted to say thank you for the time, effort and research put forth in this article.

Sam Rutigliano
Head Coach, Cleveland Browns
Cleveland, Ohio

Basketball Tip-off

In your NBA preview (November), the Houston Rockets should have been predicted to win their division by a landslide. The "Great Wall of Houston" (Hayes, Malone, Reid and Paultz) is virtually unbeatable. The Rockets will roll this year and finally bring Houston a long-awaited sports winner.

John Pilati
Houston, Texas

I enjoyed your NBA preview. This is the year for a lot of surprises around the league, and the New Jersey Nets will be one of them. With Buck Williams and Albert King from Maryland, Ray Tol-

bert from Indiana and Sam Lacey from the Kings, the Nets will be tough. But I'm still going to pick Boston or Philadelphia to win the Atlantic division and the championship.

Jeff Exline
Jasonville, Indiana

I completely agree with your article on the Nets ("On the Rebound: The New Nets," October). The Nets have a great chance to win the NBA championship in the coming years. Larry Brown had a 272-158 record in Denver; he will have a record like that before he leaves the Nets. In my view, this team will go from being one of the worst teams in the NBA to one of the best!

Phil Johnson
Whitesville, Kentucky

Winning and Losing

I find it hard to believe John Schulian is employed in Chicago, considering the ignorance concerning the Cubs that he shows in his article ("Losing Incorporated," October). He states that Rick Reuschel was the Cubs' only big league pitcher. Well, Doug Bird, his successor, enjoyed a better season statistically than Reuschel. Also, Schulian says that the Cubs received three pieces of "mystery meat" for Bruce Sutter. The Cubs merely got their first capable defensive third baseman since Ron Santo, and Leon Durham, a potential star. If Mr. Schulian doesn't start getting his facts right, he might just find himself covering the Chicago Little League.

Jack Bungart
Merced, California

Dandy Interview

Richard Turner's interview with Don Meredith (October) was a great insight into part of the Cowboy-turned-tea-lover's life. Meredith's views on football—from the Landry regime at Dallas to his very humane ideas about the increasing violence in sports—were very interesting. It was great to see that a man could go through years of getting pounded by 270-pound linemen and still have enough stamina to work with Howard Cosell for 10 years.

John Mathews
Chelmsford, Massachusetts



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SPORT TALK

FROM THE BENCHES, BARS AND BACKROOMS OF SPORTS/EDITED BY BILL DUNCAN

Take My Manager ...Please!

Lenny Randle is fortunate to have a good sense of humor—he's spent much of his baseball career playing for the Mets, Cubs and Mariners. But now Randle is hoping his humor can do for him what his baseball talents couldn't: make him a star. Randle, a journeyman infielder now with Seattle, is spending his off-season pursuing a career in comedy.

"I started doing benefits last year," Randle explains. "This year I've begun playing clubs in Chicago and Phoenix."

Randle draws much of his material from his baseball experiences, including his attack on former Texas manager Frank Lucchesi, which resulted in serious injury to Lucchesi and criminal assault charges for Randle. "I've been around a lot in baseball," Randle says in his act, "ex-Yankee, ex-Met, ex-Cub, ex-con..."

Most anything is fair game for Randle. Richard Pryor, recovered from near fatal burns, was in the audience when Randle appeared at Hollywood's Comedy Store. "And now I'd like to do my Richard Pryor impersonation," Randle said. With that he lit a match, brought it to his face and stomped around screaming, writhing and clutching his face in mock pain. Pryor was among those laughing.

"I have what it takes for comedy," Randle says. "I'm crazy and not afraid to make a fool of myself." But he still has

a lot of rough edges to work out in comedy's minor leagues. As an L.A. sportswriter put it after watching Randle at the Comedy Store, "He gets laughs, but it's the same as in baseball. He has to hit for a higher average."

—Vin Gilligan

No More Lady Bowler Jokes

If your image of a female professional bowler is of a ground-shaking, middle-aged woman (usually named Bertha), who after a tournament swaps bowling shoes for work boots and heads for a pizza joint to down a large pie and a few pitchers of beer, think again.

Donna Adamek, leading money winner on the ladies tour, is 5 feet 2, 112 pounds and 24 years old. Bowlers on the tour have an average age in the early twenties, and include the likes of Leila Wagner, the current Miss Washington, and Pat Mercatanti, a one-time *Harper's Bazaar* cover model.

—Vin Gilligan

Good Fences Make Good Neighbors

When all-American defensive end Hugh Green signed with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, contract terms were not revealed. It can now be assumed they were more than generous. Green recently bought a home in a wealthy section of Tampa. How wealthy? Well, his next-door neighbor is George Steinbrenner.

—Vin Gilligan

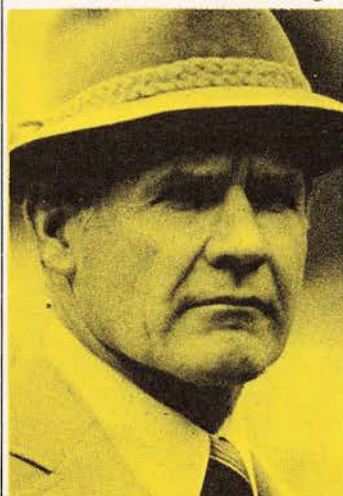
The Breaking of Ol' Stoneface

Who says Tom Landry doesn't show emotion? When the Dallas Cowboys' team charter landed at Dallas/Fort Worth Airport after a road loss, a small but devoted crowd had gathered to greet the fallen heroes. One of the last to leave the plane was Landry, who in typical fashion moved coldly through the crowd. Eleven-year-old Matt Frost of the Colleyville Cowboys called to the Dallas coach, "Don't feel bad, Coach Landry, we got beat 54-0 yesterday." With that in mind, Landry stopped, smiled and proceeded to sign autographs for several minutes.

—Norm Hitzges

Lenny Randle-ballplayer/comic

Lenny Randle-comic/ballplayer



SPORT TALK

Sport Magazine Star of the Future

The Browner family of Atlanta, Georgia has already made a distinguished contribution to college football. Joey and Keith Browner play for USC, Ross and Jim played for Notre Dame, and Willard for Notre Dame and Tulane. But according to Joey Browner, the best is yet to come.

"My little brother is unreal," says Joey of brother Gerald, a senior at Woodward Academy in College Park, Georgia. "When he was 14 he could lift up the front end of a car. And he only weighed 270 pounds then." The 6-foot-4 Gerald now weighs 310 pounds and he's still growing. "And there's no blubber on him," Joe adds. "He's as solid as a brick wall."

A rather quick brick wall at that. A USC scouting report has him at 4.9 in the 40-yard dash. "It's not just his speed but his quickness too," says Woodward coach Graham Hixon. "Gerald has excellent reaction and lateral agility. We've not only played him at nose guard and defensive tackle but at linebacker and fullback as well."

Needless to say, Browner has not gone unnoticed. An Atlanta newspaper poll of major college recruiters ranked him as the number one prospect in Georgia. A national coaches' publication picked him as the number one defensive prospect in the nation.

Gerald is now leaning toward Alabama or Georgia, but his destination could be further west. "USC is very interested in him," notes Joey. "I've got another year left and would love to see my little brother come here. It's his own decision though, so I haven't tried to influence him...yet."

—Vin Gilligan



Left to right, Dave Wolf, Duane Bobick and Murphy Griffith

In This Corner, Carrying a 25-pound Typewriter...

The story of Dave Wolf is a sportswriter's fantasy come true. A former sports editor at *Life*, Wolf is the author of *Foul*, which cleared the way for Connie Hawkins to join the NBA. The writer was looking for another book subject when he began spending hours with heavyweight Joe Frazier. "I was supposed to be interviewing him for an 'as-told-to,'" Wolf says, "but I found myself helping more and more with his training camp."

After befriending Duane Bobick during the 1972 Olympics, Wolf arranged for the young fighter to be handled by Frazier. In '78, Wolf stepped

in to manage the knocked-around Bobick and turned him into the number four heavyweight contender.

By that time, Wolf had retired his quill, at least temporarily. His next two managerial undertakings helped make his a ringside name. A little on the sorry side was the saga of Ed (Too Tall) Jones, the defensive end-turned-fighter, who had a mercifully short ring career. On the plus side has been the meteoric rise of Ray (Boom Boom) Mancini, whom Wolf and trainer Murphy Griffith groomed in just two and half years to fight Alexis Arguello for the WBC lightweight title.

Mancini nearly pulled off an upset against Arguello, but the 29-year-old Nicaraguan knocked out the 20-year-old challenger from Youngstown, Ohio, in the 14th round. "I think Ray held his own," Wolf says. "We're talking about one of the greatest fighters of all time, and Ray took it to him. We'll be back to try again."

And will Dave Wolf ever be back behind his typewriter? "I've got a few ideas percolating in my head," he says. If he's going to write based on recent experience, boxing may have to prepare for its version of baseball's *Ball Four*.

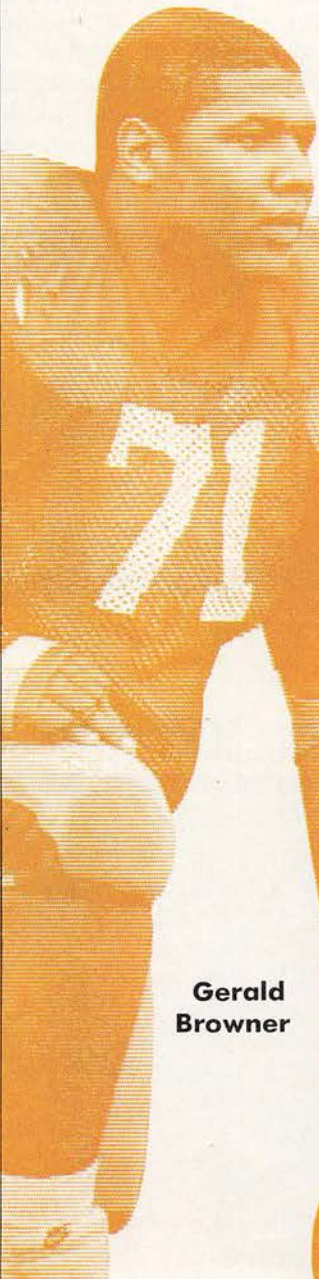
—Bill Plummer

Best Laid Plans Dept.

New York Ranger defenseman Barry Beck made an eloquent plea for an end to fighting in the NHL in a bylined article in the *New York Times*. Unfortunately, the timing of the article's appearance was a trifle embarrassing. It appeared two days after Beck had been suspended by the league for three games for—whatelse?—fighting.

—Vin Gilligan

Barry Beck



Gerald Browner



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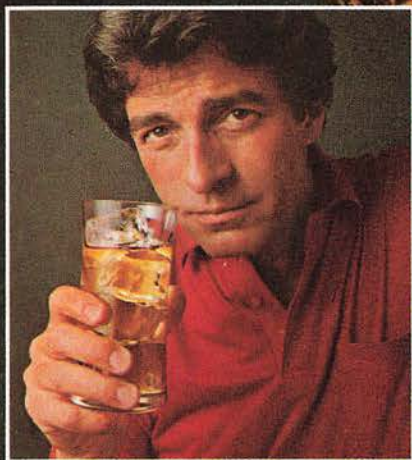
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SPORT TALK



The Dodgers' Most Valuable Trio

For the first time in its 27-year history, the Sport Magazine/Major League Baseball World Series MVP Award went to three members of the winning team. The nine-man voting panel of members of the press cast three votes each for Steve Yeager, Pedro Guerrero and Ron Cey of the World Champion Los Angeles Dodgers.

Only Yeager was able to make it to New York for the awards ceremony to pick up his MVP trophy; a limited edition, inscribed Seiko watch; and a \$2,500 scholarship to the school or charity of his choice. Ron Cey was on doctor's orders not to travel following the beaning he took from the Yankees' Rich Gosage in game five. Pedro Guerrero was detained in Santo Domingo due to a traffic accident on his way to the airport.

Alone in the spotlight at the presentation festivities at New York's Waldorf-Astoria, Yeager called the 1981 World Championship a "win for the veterans" on the Dodgers, who have been losers in three

previous World Series. He added that he had not been surprised by the remarks made after the Series by Dodgers' VP Al Campanis that the team may have to rebuild.

"We figured we might as well win it this time," said the career .230 batter, who has hit .315 in four World Series, "because it might be the last time we could do anything together."

From the Inside...

Sugar Ray Leonard is said to be pursuing "one more big fight" before he calls it quits and settles down to spend his millions. The **Bruce Finch** bout, scheduled for February, is *not* the big one. Insiders claim Leonard is sitting back waiting for **Thomas Hearns**, **Roberto Duran**, **Wilfred Benitez** or **Marvin Hagler** to sort things out. Benitez and Duran square off this month. Hearns fought up in weight against **Marcos Geraldo**, which means a Hagler-Hearns bout is in the offing.

Kansas City Kings offered Utah **Ernie Grunfeld**, **Leon Douglas** and **Cliff Robinson** for **Darrell Griffith**. Jazz said no, even though Griffith and Jazz coach **Tom Nissalke** don't see eye to eye... **Dennis Johnson**, unhappy over Suns' refusal to renegotiate to his liking, rumored to be on his way to Boston for **Danny Ainge** rights and **Rick Robey**, or to Los Angeles for **Norm Nixon**.

Fernando Valenzuela had 13 wins in 1981 and was paid \$42,500. Dodgers paid roughly \$3,269 per win. **Dave Goltz** won two in 1981, seven in 1980 and is paid \$500,000 per annum. Dodgers have paid Goltz approximately \$111,000 per win. Dodgers have another Valenzuela-type waiting in the wings, **Sid Fernandez**, a big, chunky 18-year-old lefthander from Honolulu. Fernandez is working on a screwball, and relies mostly on a 90-95 mph fastball. At Lethbridge, Alberta, where he pitched in 11 games for the Dodgers' Pioneer League affiliate, Sid led the circuit with a 1.54 ERA and 128 strikeouts in 76 innings.

Willis Reed takes graduation-depleted Creighton basketball team into his rookie

year as a college head coach. Creighton, in the Missouri Valley Conference, is up against three bonafide Top 20 (maybe Top 10) teams in Wichita State, Tulsa and Bradley. Bradley's **Mitchell Anderson** tore up Chicago summer league in competition against pros, could be nation's best... The top four NFL draft choices shape up early as: **Kenneth Sims**, 6-foot-5, 266-pound defensive tackle from Texas; **Chip Banks**, 6-foot-4, 232-pound linebacker from USC; **Sean Farrell**, 6-foot-2, 260-pound guard from Penn State; **Marcus Allen**, 6-foot-1, 202-pound running back from USC... Michigan State's senior quarterback **Bryan Clark**, among the nation's leaders in passing efficiency, is Detroit Lions head coach **Monte Clark**'s son.

Ted Stepien, Cleveland Cavaliers owner, likes to bring his friends into dressing room before and after games. He also enjoys making halftime visits, and has gone so far as to draw X's and O's on the chalkboard... Cleveland and Los Angeles (if **Paul Westhead** slumps) are frontrunners for the site of **Hubie Brown**'s return to sidelines... **Darryl Dawkins** is said to be out of Philly no matter how Sixers do this year... **Dick Vitale** takes the credit for Detroit Pistons' possession of Washington Bullets' first draft choice in 1982. Vitale was also the engineer of the famed **Bob McAdoo** deal with Boston... Amateur boxers to watch as they aim for stardom in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics are: **Dorian Melamed**, a 165-pounder from Miami; **Roderick Moore**, a 16-year-old, 139-pound Junior Olympic champ training under **Farris Purify** at Detroit's Kronk gym; **Mark Breland**, a 147-pounder from Brooklyn, New York; and **Tyrone Biggs**, a heavyweight from Philadelphia. ★

SPORT INTERVIEW

GENE UPSHAW

Strike talk. Player rep Upshaw speaks his mind. And the owners respond. There's a bitter battle in the offing.

by Lawrence Linderman

The National Football League will soon begin negotiating a new labor agreement with the NFL Players Association. The sentiment around the league is that the owners and players are heading for a showdown that could result in a football strike next fall.

The issue is money, and Gene Upshaw of the Oakland Raiders, a 15-year NFL veteran and president of the players union, makes no bones about what the players want. "We're going into negotiations determined to get 55 percent of the league's gross revenues," he says. "That's the only way we can really catch up to what other athletes

are making. We're the most underpaid players in major pro team sports."

In 1980, the average NFL player earned just under \$79,000 a year. By contrast, basketball players averaged \$190,000; baseball players, \$143,000; and hockey players, \$108,000. Says Upshaw, "When you think about how popular and profitable pro football has become, you can see why we feel we're not getting a fair shake."

It won't be an easy negotiation. Vince Lombardi, assistant executive director of the NFL Management Council, has called the 55 percent proposal an "unacceptable concept." Says Lombardi, "What they're asking for is control of the game—and we have no intention of giving it up."



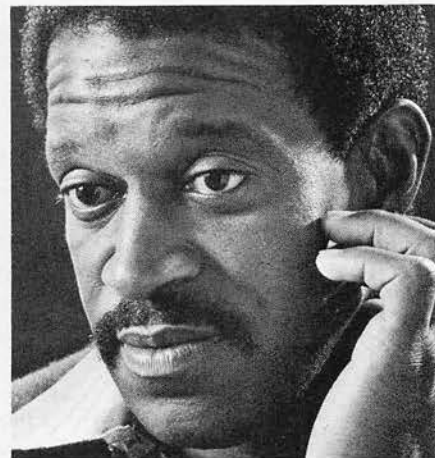
SPORT: The labor agreement between the NFL Players Association and the league is up for renewal in February, and right now your union is asking for 55 percent of the league's gross revenues. If the owners don't go along with that, will the pro football players go on strike next season?

UPSHAW: The Players Association hasn't voted on that yet, but it's something we're preparing for. We can't go into collective bargaining thinking that the owners, out of the goodness of their hearts, will give us a share in the revenues without some show of strength on our part. If we can show that we're united and are willing to make sacrifices for it, then we'll get it. Right now, the players are preparing for the worst. The



owners have taken out a \$100 million line of credit, but all it means is that the 28 clubs can each borrow about \$4 million, but they have to pay it back, so it's not like an insurance policy. Insurance companies aren't going to insure NFL team owners the way Lloyd's of London did for baseball owners last spring. I don't think any insurance company will be willing to issue strike insurance, simply because one side can force a strike.

SPORT: According to the best statistics we can find, baseball players receive 30 percent of their sport's gross revenues, hockey players 47 percent and basketball players 72 percent—which may be one reason basketball is in such sad financial shape. Why should football players receive 55 percent of the gross?



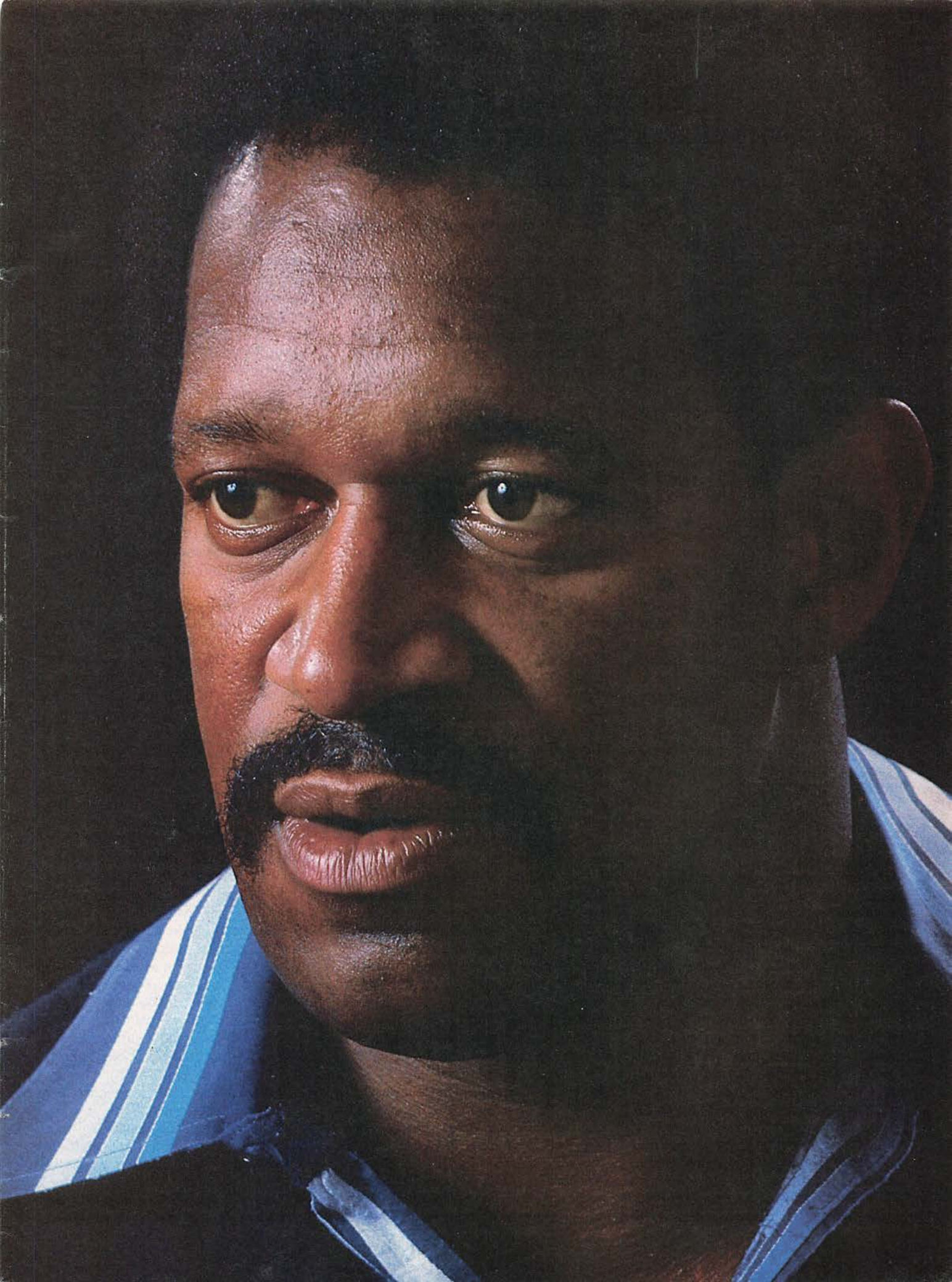
UPSHAW: Because we're the game.

SPORT: Can't baseball players say that?

UPSHAW: They can, but they haven't. We are saying it: the players are the game. The owners, if you really think about it, don't really own anything. They don't own the stadiums, that's for sure. They own the right to do business, plus some tight football pants, helmets, jerseys and jock straps.

SPORT: Free agency has certainly worked for the players in baseball. Why not take the same approach in football?

UPSHAW: Compare the economics of the two sports and you'll see why it hasn't worked for us. In football, the league negotiates a television contract for the entire NFL, and each of the 28 team owners gets 1/28 of the TV pack-



"We are the game. Until the owners see that, we'll continue to battle."

age. In baseball, each owner negotiates his own TV package, and whatever he can get is his. There's enough incentive right there for baseball owners to want a Reggie Jackson or Dave Winfield because those guys will increase an owner's TV money. Outstanding players also have an impact on attendance; a Pete Rose, Vida Blue or Fernando Valenzuela sells tickets. That's not the case in football. Last year, 93 percent of all seats to NFL games were sold, more than 70 percent of those as season tickets. What it adds up to is that no one player has an impact on NFL ticket sales. A Walter Payton, Earl Campbell, Lynn Swann, Ken Stabler or Gene Upshaw doesn't sell tickets.

You also have to look at the way ticket money is split up in the two sports. In baseball, the home team gets 90 percent of the gate, the visiting team gets 10 percent. In pro football, preseason games are split 50-50, and in the regular season it's 60-40 for the home team. Everyone's in it together, so there's no incentive for an NFL team owner to sign a Walter Payton. Payton played out his option last year, didn't get a single offer and eventually had to sign again with the Bears. All that meant to the Bears' owner was that he was increasing the size of his payroll; he wasn't going to get more money from TV or ticket sales.

SPORT: What did Payton's inability to sign with another team mean to the other players?

UPSHAW: It was a signal to us. The players realized that if a Walter Payton became a free agent and couldn't get an offer, how in the world could a second-string tackle get one? As an excuse, the owners said that the NFL free agent formula demanded too much compensation for Payton: two first round draft choices. But the owners would have said a stack of bubble gum cards was too much compensation. Our theory is that NFL owners are in business together, and with all of them virtually sharing in the profits there's no incentive for them to sign a free agent. With that in mind—and with ticket prices going up and the TV package possibly doubling when they sign a new one this year—we just don't think we have a chance negotiating individually. The league grossed just

over \$400 million last year. We think that going after 55 percent of it is the right issue.

SPORT: NFL players now earn an average salary of just under \$80,000 a season. If you get the 55 percent, what would the average salary jump to?

UPSHAW: Right now, we estimate that each team is grossing about \$14 million. Taking the 55 percent figure, each player would average at least \$150,000. Baseball players are at that point.

SPORT: Under the plan, who would determine how much each player should be paid?

UPSHAW: Salary scales will be set by the NFL Players Association's Board of Representatives. We'll set salaries according to years of service, and after that players will get points for games started, honors won—all-pro and so on—and individual statistics. We haven't gotten all the input we need from the players yet, but we'll get it in March, when we're holding a convention. They'll tell us exactly what they want us to do.

SPORT: Under the salary scales you'll be proposing, will quarterbacks suddenly be paid less and linemen more? How do you plan to differentiate by position?

UPSHAW: We're not going to distinguish between positions; years of longevity will be the number one factor. We're also saying that a guy will never do worse under our plan than he's already doing. Earl Campbell recently said that if the other guys can be helped, he's not that concerned about himself. The thing is, Earl Campbell's done pretty well on his own, and he'd still be left with an option. If an owner wants to keep him from going to Canada, he can pay Earl more money.

SPORT: What you're proposing is another realm of negotiations where the owners dip into their remaining 45 percent to keep control of the players.

UPSHAW: They can do whatever they want with their share, and that's still quite a bit. If they want to keep an Earl Campbell from going to Canada, that's what they'll have to do.

SPORT: The threat of going to Canada, so far, hasn't given players much negotiating leverage. It seems that pro foot-

ball's superstars could be shortchanged—in relation to lesser players—when they sit down to negotiate their contracts.

UPSHAW: That's not true. If a player has a good contract now, he'll continue under that one. No player has ever done as well on his own as he could do under this plan. But if an Earl Campbell—who makes \$400,000 a year—gets hurt, and the guy who comes in for him is making only \$27,000 a year, we think that's too much of a difference. That's where we have problems, and that's what we want to straighten out. We have more average players than we have Earl Campbells.

SPORT: How much support do you think this 55 percent proposal currently has among NFL players?

UPSHAW: That's hard to say. I think all the players who understand the concept are pretty committed. But there's another group that really doesn't know the issues. Our union has a basic problem, and I don't know if we can ever solve it: we're continually having to educate players. The average pro football career lasts only four and a half years. That means that every four or five years we have to educate almost an entirely new group of athletes.

SPORT: During the baseball strike, Pittsburgh's Jack Lambert publicly vowed that he would not go out in an NFL players' strike. Do you think the baseball strike had a similar effect on other players?

UPSHAW: No, I don't think it did. What the baseball strike did for us was to show that if you stick together, you can achieve the goals you really want. But the big thing in all of this is the growing force of unions in American sports. And the reason we need this is to protect the players, like the rest of America's workers. If the union hadn't stood up and said we want a pension plan, a dental plan and insurance, none of those things would have been given to us. Before the union came into being, the owners always said, "Just play and we'll take care of you." Some players still believe that. They believe wrong.

SPORT: Why do you think football players earn so much less than baseball, basketball and hockey players?

UPSHAW: I really think it's because we're a group of guys who just want to



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play ball. "Put me in coach, I don't care about anything else, just let me play." And with that four-and-a-half-year career life-span, we're also the most transient of athletes. The reason baseball players are so united is that the players come up together through the minor leagues; they've known each other for years. They play against each other often, they talk to each other during batting practice and they build up a real sense of camaraderie. In the NFL, except for divisional rivals, you play against the rest of the teams about once every three years; usually after you've played against a team once, most guys on that team aren't there the next time around. So we don't get to know each

other. And the league doesn't *want* us to get to know each other.

SPORT: Are there restrictions on fraternizing with other players?

UPSHAW: The owners don't like you to fraternize before *or* after a game. Matter of fact, this year the league office told us that for security reasons, after each game they wanted us to run off the field as fast as possible. Our union doesn't think security has anything to do with it. They just don't want us to *know* each other. The NFL says, "Well, we've had so many incidents." I don't believe it. I think it's one more tactic to keep us divided.

SPORT: We've seen published reports indicating that between 1970 and 1980—

and allowing for inflation—the salaries of football players actually declined, while salaries of baseball, basketball and hockey players shot up by more than 100 percent. How did that happen?

UPSHAW: Oh, that's easy to understand. We estimate that we're currently getting about 28 percent of the sport's gross revenues, but before the merger of the AFL and the NFL we were getting 67 percent of the gross. After the merger, our percentage dropped, leveled off and then took a little rise when the World Football League came along. And now it's going down again. You see, every time the league negotiates a new TV contract, the owners' percentage of gross revenues goes up—

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and ours goes down. It's not hard to find our sport when looking at a chart comparing football to baseball, basketball and hockey. The curve at the bottom is us.

SPORT: Pete Rozelle's salary may be paid by team owners, but as commissioner of the NFL he obviously has to be concerned about preventing a strike. Unlikely as it might be, if Rozelle agreed with your 55 percent approach, could he do anything to persuade the owners to go along with it?

UPSHAW: No, he couldn't help. Rozelle is totally powerless; he's a puppet. In a situation like this, he can't make the team owners do a thing. The owners will turn around and say, "Wait

a minute! Who works for who?"

SPORT: What about the fans' reaction? The public has little sympathy for players' salary complaints, particularly because many players sign long-term contracts and later threaten to sit out a season if those contracts aren't renegotiated. That happened this fall with John Jefferson and Fred Dean of the San Diego Chargers. When both were subsequently traded away, many fans supported the team's decision.

UPSHAW: The public doesn't really know too much about those situations. When a player signs a long-term contract, management always says that if the arrangement doesn't work out, don't worry, they'll work it out. At that

point, everybody is happy. Down the road, players realize they deserve more money, so they call the owner, and the owner says, "Wait a minute, we already have you under contract. We're not paying you a penny more." That's the part the public doesn't know about, doesn't believe and doesn't *want* to believe. It should have been written into their contracts that if Jefferson and Dean achieved certain things, they had the right to renegotiate at a certain point. Jefferson got some bad advice when he came into the league; I can't believe he signed a series of nine one-year contracts. It was as if he committed murder and was sentenced to life.

SPORT: Could you clarify what's meant

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by "a series of one-year contracts?"

UPSHAW: It means that if you sign a three-year contract, let's say for the 1982, '83 and '84 seasons, you don't really have a three-year contract; you have separate contracts for each of those seasons. That's the policy the league adopted after getting burned on lawsuits brought by players who'd signed multiyear contracts and who, because of injuries, were prevented from completing those contracts. To eliminate that problem, the owners went to a series of one-year contracts; in case a player gets hurt, they no longer have to pay off the remainder of his contract. In the NFL, you see, a contract is *not* a contract. Only about 1 percent of NFL players have guaranteed contracts; the majority of baseball contracts are guaranteed, which means that the players get paid, period. In the NFL, you can sign a two-year contract like I have, but if you don't make the team every year, you don't get paid.

SPORT: You think that's unfair?

UPSHAW: Yes, I do. We have no job security in the NFL, and a lot of that has to do with the league's draft of college

players. I'd like to see entry into the league more controlled. We already know that 90 percent of new NFL players come out of the first four rounds of the draft; after that, it's a roll of the dice. I would cut it down to just so many new players being invited to NFL training camp each year.

SPORT: How would that change things?

UPSHAW: It would mean veterans would play longer. I'm not concerned about myself because I'm only going to play one more year, but I am concerned about the rest of the players. If you don't have all these players coming in each year to try and take our jobs, we'll have a little job security. Some teams go to training camp with more than 70 free agents. If you've got that many coming in, some of them will make it.

SPORT: Why *shouldn't* they make it? Are seniority and job security suddenly going to be more important than athletic ability?

UPSHAW: If the owners judged it on a talent basis alone we wouldn't be concerned. What really happens is that all of a sudden an owner gets a chance to choose between a veteran who's making

And in the Other

With negotiations still a few months away, the NFL Players Association's demands are already running into opposition from the team owners. Jack Donlan, executive director of the NFL Management Council—which will represent the owners in negotiations—and Vince Lombardi, his assistant, replied to some of the issues raised by Gene Upshaw in the interview.

SPORT: The Players Association is seeking 55 percent of the NFL's gross revenues. What does management think of this plan?

DONLAN: We're adamantly opposed to giving the players a percentage of the gross. First of all, that would make them a partner in our business and give them the right to examine our books. More importantly, it would give them some measure of control over the game itself. We think we've been successful with the game, we've taken it from where it's been to where it is now by carefully monitoring its growth. The owners don't have any interest in getting 1,500 new partners.

SPORT: The players claim that their salaries are the lowest of any major sport. Why is that?

DONLAN: The base salaries are lower.

But we have more than twice as many people as the next sport, baseball. Last season, we had 1,532 players that we paid throughout the year. That averages out to 55 per club; baseball has 25. And we've got 16 games as opposed to 162. It seems a false premise to compare athletes just because they happen to be athletes. People don't compare doctors and say that heart surgeons should make the same as podiatrists.

SPORT: The players claim that free agency will never work in the NFL because the owners have no incentive to pursue free agents.

LOMBARDI: We feel that with few exceptions the free agent classes since 1977 have contained few people teams are willing to give up number one draft choices for. Football is not baseball. You get a .300 hitter in baseball, he can turn you around. Walter Payton is not going to turn around the New York Giants. It's not the nature of football to hang your hat on one player.

SPORT: The players argue that seniority should provide some job security. Should a 15-year veteran like Gene Upshaw have to work under a series of one-year contracts, in essence challenging him to make the team every year

\$85,000 and a free agent or a low draft choice who'll make maybe \$30,000. The owner can look at them and say, "Well, there might not be that much difference between these two players. The new guy is younger and his salary is lower. Let's cut the veteran."

SPORT: Can you give us examples?

UPSHAW: Sure I can. I remember when John Mackey of the Baltimore Colts was voted the top tight end of the decade and, really, the top tight end ever to play the game. He happened to become president of the union, and he also happened to be out of football within a year. Look at the Jefferson and Dean situations, and you can also include Vince Ferragamo in this. Ferragamo led the Rams to the Super Bowl two years ago, but all of a sudden it was like he was asking for too much money. The Rams were paying him \$57,000 a year, which was very far below what a starting NFL quarterback earns. What it comes down to is that owners will choose money over ability, because there's no real payoff for them if their teams win. They don't need to take any risks investing in players. When the

AFL started, I think franchises were going for about \$25,000. Those franchises are now worth about \$50 million.

SPORT: The labor agreement expires in February and the players will meet in March to iron out their demands. How long will it take to solve the differences? Can it be done before next season?

UPSHAW: I think the extent of our grievances will level out just as soon as the owners and players reach an agreement recognizing that the players are as much a part of the game as the owners. As I said before, we *are* the game, and we have just as much invested in it as the owners do. Until the owners see that, we'll continue to battle, but if we can get into a percentage of the gross, things will be smoothed over very quickly. At that point, we'll become partners in a sense, and we'll all be willing to sit down and work out solutions to some of these grievances. We won't need arbitration procedures. We'll handle it together because we'll all be in it together. The enemy will no longer exist. ★

Lawrence Linderman is a freelance writer based in northern California.

Corner: the Owners

before he can get paid?

LOMBARDI: Seniority doesn't account for job security and it shouldn't. Football is a very demanding and intense game. If I was with a club I wouldn't want a 15-year guard who couldn't start for me now—like Gene Upshaw—sitting on the bench with a guaranteed contract for the next few years. That's not how you win football games.

SPORT: The players' union feels the league is hampering its efforts by forbidding fraternization among the players before and after games.

LOMBARDI: It is simply security. In the World Series, an outfielder for the Dodgers had a bottle thrown at him. That can happen at any time. You can't tell me that guys are going to get to know each other in the time that they pat each other on the can after the game—that's just ridiculous. They can always meet in the lockerroom after the game if they want to hold hands.

SPORT: What will management offer to the players as a counter proposal?

DONLAN: We don't have anything etched in marble yet. We'll sit down with them sometime early in '82 and exchange ideas. We anticipate a nice increase in the TV contract and we think

the players will get more money. But if you really analyze their proposal they don't want just money, they want partial control of the game. We recognize their desire for more money and we're going to work toward that end, but as for control and changing the system, that's not going to happen.

SPORT: Is that why the owners have taken out a \$100 million line of credit, to prepare for a strike?

DONLAN: We didn't take out a \$100 million line of credit, we took out \$150 million. The owners are unalterably opposed to the players' percentage-of-the-gross plan. A percentage of the gross is a short-term look at football because the union would negotiate for the people they currently have in their system, a group of players whose average life is four or five years. The owners look at football over a longer period of time. Why should we go to a system that would require us to take a strike two negotiations from now in order to get some of it back, like what the baseball owners just went through? We certainly hope there isn't going to be a strike, but if there is one, when it's over the players are still not going to get a percentage of the gross. ★

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PLAYBOOK FOR THE PLAYOFFS

Hey, Coach. Want to get to the Super Bowl? Then throw away your old game plans. The playoffs are a whole new ballgame.



by Kevin Lamb

Forget the regular season—the won-lost records, the statistics and the normal rules stop here. In the NFL playoffs, the team that makes the big plays is the team that plays again.

Sure, deep down, coaches know this. But they forget. Either that or they figure the defense can make the big plays and that the offense should concern itself with keeping the other guy's defense from making the big plays. Be conservative, the conventional wisdom says. Don't make mistakes.

That's backwards, of course. Defense can make big plays, but it can't take the initiative. The defense hasn't been assembled that can huddle up and say, "Double zone. Their quarterback tries a 12-yard curl, left side. He underthrows. Cornerback intercepts. On two."

"It seems that everybody says, 'When you get to the playoffs, make the other

team lose,'" says Alan Page, the Bears' defensive tackle who has made many big postseason plays in his career. "At some point, though, you've got to win. Successful teams have always done that. They take matters into their own hands."

Another toothless old saw says Play Your Own Game, but who knows what that means? Don't do anything you never did before? What we do know is that the game itself, as it's played at the end of December, is a little different. Almost every team that survives the regular season is very, very good, and those that didn't seem as good before may suddenly play better. Many a team has barely squeaked into the playoffs only to then start knocking over division winners when the money season began. Remember Oakland.

So it is not the time to hunker down with the conventional wisdom. Just look at the record. History offers some valuable lessons on how to win in the playoffs, lessons that may not be visible in the films. Of course, coaches who are too busy to unwrap their carry-out sandwiches before eating them certainly don't have time to browse through old playoff game summaries. That's why we've done it for them. So here, Coach, is something for you to read if you spill mustard on your film breakdowns. Here are five lessons from the past that can help you win in the 1981 playoffs.

● Throw deep. Winning teams throw longer passes than losers do. Over the last six years, 33 of the 42 winners of playoff games averaged more yards per pass completion than the losers. In fact, the leaders in that category won more games than did the leaders in rushing yards, passing yards, total yards, pass-completion percentage, turnovers recovered, first downs or practically any category but points.

That's what the numbers say, Coach. Air it out.

You want more figures? Besides usually leading in yards per catch, winning playoff teams over the last six years scored more of their touchdowns on long passes than did losers. Passes over 20 yards have accounted for 26.2 percent of winners' touchdowns, but only 14.7 percent of the losers' scores.

And winners scored 8.7 percent of

their touchdowns on passes from beyond the 40-yard line, while losers hit from that distance for 1.5 percent of their TDs. As a matter of fact, only once in the last six years of playoff games has a team thrown a touchdown pass at least 40 yards and lost. Eleven times, the team that threw that pass won.

There's a logical reason for long-pass success. Once a team is in the playoffs, there are few player-on-player mismatches. But the one player on the field whose matchup has an inherent advantage is the wide receiver. He is the only player who can find himself one-on-one against someone who doesn't know where he is going. The record says throw to him.

● When you reach midfield, reach for the touchdown.

"You want to work your way up to the 50," Terry Bradshaw says. "The coverages are different there and you can't do as much. So make a few first downs and get into position. Then once you're inside the 40, it's like being in the home stretch. That's when you go into your kick." In fact, in playoff games that have been decided by one touchdown or less, losers actually threw more *short* touchdown passes than winners did. But from beyond the 20, winners have thrown 15 TD passes and losers only five.

Yes, Coach, there is a place for ball control. But think of it as a defensive aid, not an offensive philosophy. You might be able to plow an 80-yard trail down the field against Seattle, but this is the playoffs. If you hold the ball 40 minutes without striking for the end zone, the other guys still have time to outscore you.

Points count, after all, not minutes. Nor first downs. And close games in particular are not the place to worry about collecting first downs—you just can't redeem them for points. Virtually half of all the playoff games in the last six years went into the final minutes with the teams separated by less than seven points. In those games, teams with an edge in first downs have won 10—and lost 10.

Naturally, a mixed offense is desirable; it keeps the defense off-balance and the other guy's offense off the field. And it helps the downfield passing game. In their best years, Pittsburgh, Oakland and Miami all controlled the ball. That was their jab; it kept other teams from swinging away at them. But their knockout punch, two or three times a game—and especially in close

Playoff connection: quarterback to receiver to end zone. Stop worrying and love the bomb.



games—was the long pass to Swann, Branch or Warfield.

III. Don't sit on a lead. Keep the pressure on even when you're ahead. Don't worry about mistakes; they don't generally cost leads. You've probably had this nightmare, Coach. Your team is up by four points with five or six minutes left to play, right? And your quarterback gets the bright idea of passing. And damned if he doesn't throw the football right to the free safety. You wake up before the dream ends, but you know what happens. The other guy wins by three.

Well, relax. It doesn't happen. That's not to say it couldn't happen, but in six years, no playoff team has blown a late

lead with an interception.

Here is what's more likely to happen. Five times a team has gone well into the second half with a slim lead and then turned it into a comfortable lead with a long pass play. Last year, Oakland did that to Houston with a 10-7 lead and Dallas did it to Los Angeles at 20-13.

"When you get on top of someone," Bradshaw says, "keep firing away. Keep the pressure on them. Only back off when you've got it locked up."

Philadelphia learned that lesson the hard way in 1978. The Eagles took a 13-0 lead in the third quarter and then turned conservative. They let Atlanta stay in the game, and the Falcons went on to win on a touchdown pass with 1:39 left. A 37-yard touchdown pass.

And don't worry unduly about fumbles. Twenty-eight teams had fewer fumbles than their opponents in the last 42 playoff games, and only 15, barely half, were winners. And of the 32 teams

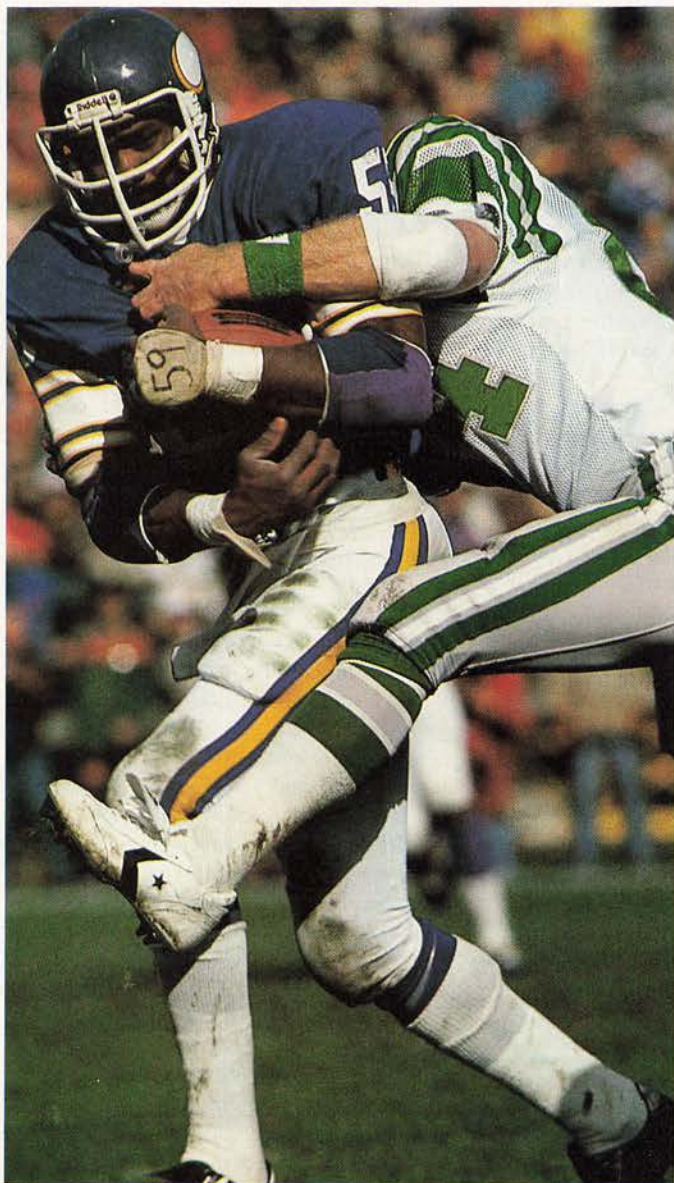
that had no fumbles, 17 lost.

Penalties? In the last six years, the teams with fewer penalties have gone 15-23 (and a lowly 7-14 in the last three years). Penalties don't help a team win, of course, but it seems the aggressiveness that leads to penalties does.

IV. Shut down the run. Winning teams stop the other team's running game. They absolutely stuff it. In 29 of the last 42 playoff games, one team has been held to less than 100 yards rushing, and 28 of those 29 teams lost. In 1980, all eight losers in the playoffs ran for less than 100 yards. The point is not that a strong running game is necessary to victory. Rather, a strong defense against the run helps prevent an opponent, first, from mixing up its attack and, second, from plodding into striking distance.

Your offense can stop their running game too. As Pittsburgh linebacker

On defense, stuff the running game and the interceptions will fall into place.



Ten Commandments of Betting the Playoffs

If you think it's tough betting on regular season NFL games, try wagering—and winning—on the playoffs, where the ball seems to take even stranger bounces. Take the advice of Las Vegas gambling legend Lem Banker: "Before betting on any NFL playoff games make sure you've got a paid-up, one-way bus ticket to wherever you'd like to spend the rest of your life."

With that in mind, here are 10 commandments for betting on postseason games:

1. Thou shalt not bet false coaches against established winners. Chuck Noll, Tom Landry, Don Shula and Bud Grant are a collective 28-14 against the spread in playoff games since 1971 (not including games against each other).

2. Thou shalt not covet the home field. Home field edge? No such thing. In the last 10 years of playoffs, home teams have only a 33-30 won-lost record against the spread, with three games landing on the line.

3. Thou shalt not bet any team from the AFC East. Since Miami won the 1973 Super Bowl, no AFC East playoff team has won even a single postseason game. The Dolphins, Bills, Colts and Patriots are a sorry 0-9, and have covered the spread just twice.

4. Thou shalt not bet any team coached by Don Coryell. Although it is sound advice to like a big play team in the playoffs, a little defense doesn't hurt either. In St. Louis and in San Diego, Coryell's record against the spread is 0-4-1.

5. Thou shalt be leery of the home underdog. Betting the "home dog" is a favored notion. But in the last decade, 12 home playoff teams have been listed as underdogs and have only managed to cover six times.

Jack Ham said after the Steelers' 34-5 victory against Houston and Earl Campbell in 1978, "Any time you get points like our offense got, their 1,000-yard runner is no good. You don't care if he runs."

No matter how you stop the run, however, you're going to have to stop the pass next. But now they're passing on your terms. You know what's coming. Your rush men can line up in the starting blocks and your coverage men can play deeper. You've taken away the wide receiver's advantage.

V. Win the fourth quarter. Over the last six years, the team that has scored more points in the fourth quarter has won the game 26 times and lost seven times. Now, since the rules committee made the celebrated changes in the passing-game rules three years ago, the fourth quarter has become even more significant. Comebacks today are

easier. In the last three years, first-quarter winners have gone just 8-9; fourth-quarter winners in that time have gone 17-1.

Need more evidence? Try this. In the three years before the rule changes, teams that scored first went 14-4; in the three years since the changes (with the number of teams expanded by the wild-card round), teams that scored first have gone only 14-10.

This might be a good time to reread Lesson III, Coach, because the rules committee might have written that lesson itself: remain aggressive even when you have the lead, because somebody is probably gaining on you.

Although the tendency of fourth-quarter winners to win the game is particularly strong now, it has been a general playoff trend for a while. There have been 21 games since 1974 in which the eventual winner already had a substantial lead before the fourth quarter; in 12

of those games the team with the lead won the fourth quarter anyway—extending its lead. Five times, that team tied for the quarter—maintaining its lead. And only four times did the team with the lead lose the last quarter—reducing its lead.

So, there are a few lessons from history, except for this final admonishment from Bradshaw. "Relax," he says, "have a good time and be aggressive." Of course, many head coaches in the NFL don't believe in boldness, good times or relaxation. And they may not believe in the lessons we've drawn from the record. Well, Coach, there are always exceptions. And a great team will win in its own way. But while you're refilling the coffee pot in the film room, remember: the game is a little different in December. ★

Kevin Lamb is a football writer for the Chicago Sun-Times.

6. Thou shalt not bet the big underdog. There's a terrific temptation to play teams picked to lose by more than a touchdown. Don't do it. During the last 10 years, these big dogs have covered only seven of 15 times.

7. Thou shalt play the Dallas Cowboys as an underdog. Oddsmakers have spotted the Cowboys points six times in the last decade, but Dallas has won five of those games outright.

8. Beware teams from the NFC Central Division. Since Minnesota's back-to-back Super Bowl appearances in 1975 and '76, Central teams have played eight playoff games and have covered just twice.

9. Thou shalt not bet against the wild-card team as a sure thing. Teams that squeak into the playoffs aren't necessarily going to roll over and die when they meet the big boys. In the three years in which division winners have had to wait a week to play the wild-card winners, the wild-card teams have gone 4-2 against division champs. AFC wild-carders have gone 3-0.

10. Thou shalt not go for the kill believing that a line looks very wrong. It's more likely that you're very wrong. When it looks like stealing, keep your hands in your pockets. But if you choose to bet, buy that bus ticket now.

Six Trick Plays for Upsetting the Playoffs

In playoff games, NFL coaches often seem to fear making the big mistake more than they relish creating the game-breaking play. To counteract that repressive postseason thinking, here are a half-dozen loony but legal plays we'd love to see in the playoffs—but probably never will.

1. The fair catch-free kick play. There's a little-known NFL rule: a team that fair catches a punt can try a field goal from that point as a free kick. The holder sets the ball up and the kicker lets it fly; no snap, no defensive

rush. This play might be useful to teams whose kickers can airmail field goals from one zip code to another.

2. The no huddle offense. The newest rage in the NFL is defensive substitutions for every situation. Consider how defenseless defensive coaches would be if the offense did not huddle, but instead quickly lined up and called each play from the line of scrimmage; the defenses wouldn't be able to shuffle personnel. Caution: use only if your quarterback's IQ is significantly higher than his jersey number.

3. The you-can-punt-it-anytime play. Another seldom-used rule: a team can punt the ball anytime from anywhere during the course of a play. If a running back who can punt—like Chicago's Walter Payton or Dallas' Ron Springs—runs along the line of scrimmage and nails a line drive punt over the safeties' heads, the ball might bounce forever and change the whole critical flow of field position.

4. The end-of-the-half-running-out-the-clock fakeout. Teams usually kill the clock by having the quarterback take the snap and drop down. Let him try that once as a decoy, but on the next play have the wide receiver delay and then burst down the sideline. The quarterback can then leap to his feet and cut loose a bomb.

5. The ultimate fake field goal. It's fourth down with less than five yards to go, and the field goal unit comes out on the field. But, while signals are called, the holder leaps to his feet and goes into motion. If a defender jumps offside, the center snaps the ball to the kicker to draw the penalty, giving the kicking team a first down. If the defense isn't fooled, simply take a delay of game penalty and kick from five yards further back.

6. The "Ah, damn!" deception play. It's third and three. The fullback lines up directly behind the center while the quarterback yells at the tight end as if he's trying to get him to change position. Finally, the disgusted quarterback shouts, "Ah, damn!" and begins to walk toward the bench. But he never signals for a timeout. The other 10 men count to three, the ball is snapped to the fullback, and he plows ahead for the first down.

—Norm Hitzges

BOARDING

by Harvey Araton

It is the next to last game of the 1980-1981 season. A 6-foot-8, 215-pound rookie for the Golden State Warriors, Larry Smith, grabs 31 rebounds—an NBA high for the season—in a loss to Denver. Fourteen of them are taken off the offensive boards. Two days later, Smith finishes the year with a total of 994 rebounds, third in the league. Even more striking, he finishes with 433 offensive rebounds—second only to Moses Malone—nearly 50 percent more than the next highest finisher.

Larry Smith had the greatest season of any rookie rebounder since Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, yet his name and his accomplishment remain obscure. Poor Mr. Smith suffers the inherent misfortune of being A Rebounder. Unless you are enormous in size or personality, and a shooter as well, you aren't going to be noticed from the seats. But the truth of the matter is that rebounders win games.

And opponents notice. Jack Sikma, the center of the Seattle SuperSonics, recalls one sterling effort by Smith. "It was late last season," says Sikma. "A rebound came off over Smith's head. He went up, and with his hand behind his head, he grabbed the ball against the back of his neck. But before he hit the floor, he had rolled the ball around to his chest and had complete control of it. Now that was a rebound."

Unfortunately for the Warriors, Larry Smith himself took notice of his achievements and sought to pull down a lot more dollars with all those rebounds, resulting in a contract stalemate and holdout. Smith shouldn't have been surprised by his plight. You can take 31 points to the bank; 31 rebounds are harder to barter.

Smith has been compared to the usually incomparable Malone, who is considered the planet's most ineluctable rebounding machine (see page 31). Smith is smaller than Malone and less experienced, but what makes them both dangerous is the variety of ways they have of getting the ball.

"I haven't seen anyone come around like him in a long time," says Paul Silas, coach of the San Diego Clippers and the NBA's high priest of rebounding. "It's strange for these days, because most of the kids today relate success to doing something *with* the ball rather than to *getting* it."

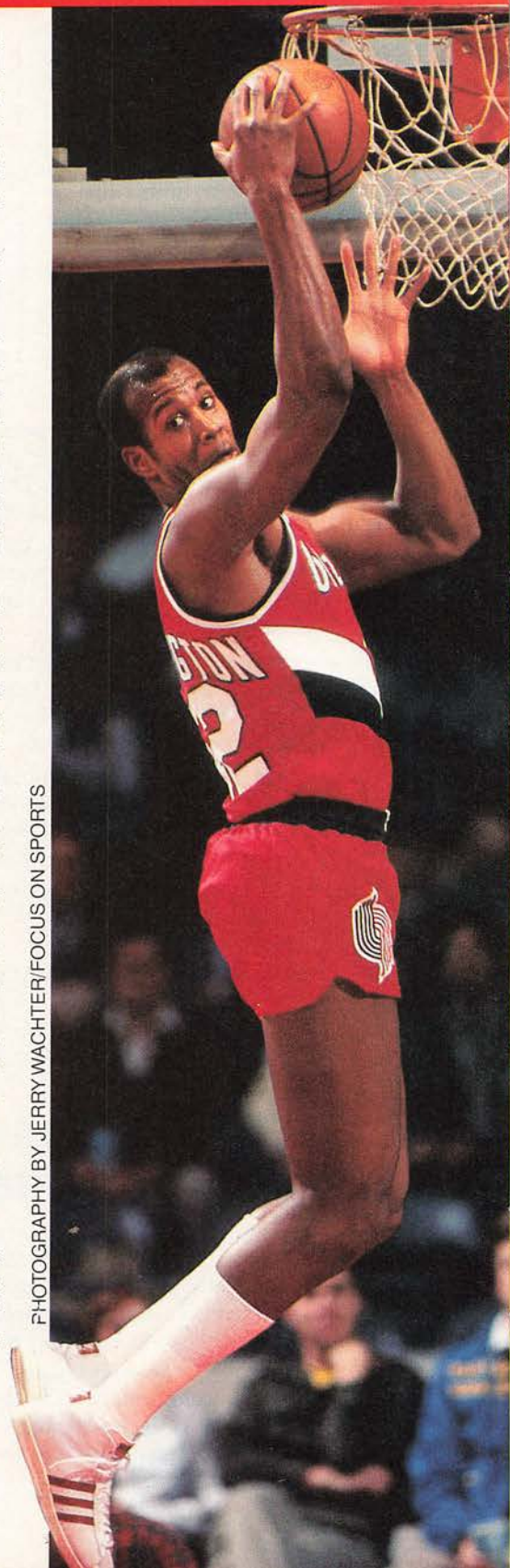
Getting it... without the ball, there can be no fast breaks or slam dunks or high fives. And without the rebounders, a team can't get the ball. Rebounding is the game within the game; the truth of the pro game is that a team survives or dies on the boards. "I'll take 20 rebounds anytime over 35 points," says Larry Bird of the Boston Celtics, the NBA's fourth leading rebounder last season. "Hustle wins games, and 20 rebounds proves you hustled."

Last season's playoffs demonstrated that the team that rebounds takes home the hardware. Houston lasted to the championship series last season because Moses Malone could not be contained on the boards by Los Angeles, San Antonio or Kansas City. Boston won the title because it had too many rebounders for Houston to contain—Bird, Cedric Maxwell, Robert Parish and Kevin McHale.

Rebounding is not just a function of size, and it is not just a knack. Some rebounders are born, like Smith, but most are made, like Larry Bird. When a player doesn't fit the physically powerful stereotype of the rebounder but is nonetheless successful, his skills are often dubbed "uncanny." They are, in fact, very canny. Rebounding is in large part a thinking man's game; it is as much a science as it is an art. And like any science, rebounding has its principles.

There are big men and there are big men who rebound. Paul Silas is the model of the modern rebounder. Like

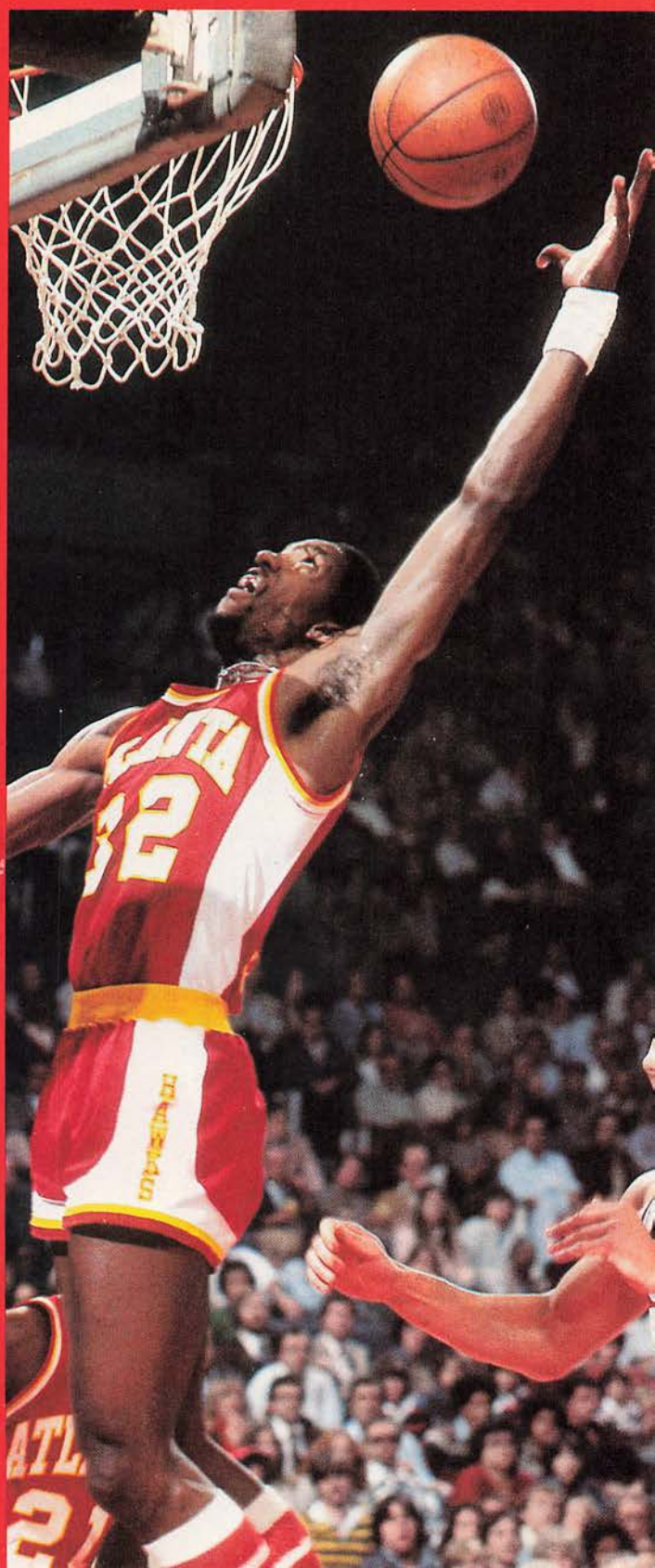
Kermit Washington does it with desire. Larry Bird does it with finesse. And Dan Roundfield does it with power.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JERRY WACHTER/FOCUS ON SPORTS

SCHOOL

Rebounding is an art and a science. Learn a few lessons from the NBA's best; their opponents have.



many of the best in the game today, Silas' physical attributes—size (6 feet 7), upper-body strength, jumping ability, foot speed—were not impressive. Yet he dominated the backboards when he played, and is the 10th leading rebounder of all time. In fact, there was not a single 7-footer among the top six rebounders last year. It helps to be already up there before you leap, but other things help more.

Technique and desire, Silas will tell

Caldwell Jones gets position—and the ball. "Too many guys stand around and watch."

you, are the essential attributes of successful rebounders. If size, or "spring," were critical—well, "How do you explain me?" asks Bird, 6 feet 9, who led the Celtics last season with 10.9 rebounds a game. "I'd say Bird is the best technique rebounder around today," says Silas. "What most people—most players, for that matter—don't understand is that rebounding has very little to do with straight-up jumping ability, or strength. If you have that, great. But it's not a requirement."

You've got to want it. Why do you want it? Because the ball *matters*; it has value and it belongs to *you*. And *he's*

trying to take it away. "The majority of rebounding is just desire," says Silas. "Wanting the ball, wanting to be the best."

Early in his career, when he was a 7-foot pacifist playing alongside Silas at Seattle, Marvin Webster knocked over George McGinnis while going after an offensive rebound. Webster offered his hand to McGinnis; Silas slapped it away and told Webster, "Let that son of a bitch get up by himself."

Nice guys don't get rebounds. Nice guys can shoot, they can pass (naturally), they can even set picks. But you have to be selfish and singleminded about getting the ball off the glass. "It's a



Class of the Glass

The Top 10

state of mind you work yourself into," says Maurice Lucas of the Knicks, an eight-year veteran whose elbows are respected around the league. "The day of the game, I'll work myself up, almost to a complete change from my personality off the court. And if you can intimidate someone with a stare or by leaning on him, why not?"

Sitting in the 76ers' lockerroom before a game with the Celtics, center/forward Caldwell Jones thought about the distinction between a player who can make a great rebound and a great rebounder. "You'll see some guys go way up, snatch the ball with one hand and everyone will go, 'Ahhh.' Then you'll check the stats afterward and you'll see that guy had one rebound."

Could the tall, thin, none-too-imposing Jones, the Sixers' leading rebounder, have been talking about Darryl Dawkins, his gifted 6-foot-11, 245-pound, mediocre-rebounding teammate? "Darryl," Jones said, "helps me out by being a decoy. But as a rebounder, Darryl has to think rebound more. And want it."

Jump doesn't mean high. Getting off the floor at the right time in the right direction is more important than how far you get off the floor. There is no shortage of players who can crowd the air at rim level; but there aren't many who can consistently intercept the ball with precision, and control it.

During the championship series last spring between Boston and Houston, Bird missed a layup late in a close game. He had put the ball up on the right side of the basket. The ball had a little too much on it and bounced off the glass to the left of the basket. But when the ball came off the board, Bird was there to make the offensive rebound (and the basket), having jumped laterally under the rim. "You work on that stuff all the time," Bird says. "For lateral jumping we do a lot of rope jumping, which most people think is just for conditioning."

The ability to move sideways or to jump backwards is as much mental as physical—anticipating the ball and acting on that. Even more important is the ability to jump to the ball and then to do it again and again and again if necessary. In San Diego, Silas puts his players through vigorous tipping drills to improve their ability to make what he calls the "quick jump."

"It figures," says Silas, "that if you

1. Moses Malone, Houston. Del Harris slows his offense just so Mo can prowling the boards.

2. Larry Smith, Golden State. The first rookie since Kareem to finish in the top three.

3. Larry Bird, Boston. Much better defensive rebounder, but gets clutch offensive rebound too.

4. Caldwell Jones, Philadelphia. Without him, the 76ers would never get close enough to blow anything.

5. Jack Sikma, Seattle. Does everything well as a technique rebounder.

6. Swen Nater, San Diego. Has finished first and second last two years, mostly on defensive boards.

7. Dan Roundfield, Atlanta. The Secretariat of power forwards; quick on offensive boards.

8. Kermit Washington, Portland. Great jumper, great desire, great career considering he has poor offensive skills.

9. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, L.A. Strictly as a defensive rebounder, where size and agility pay off.

10. Artis Gilmore, Chicago. With size and strength, he overpowers people, despite bad knees.

The Five Best Guards

1. Michael Richardson, New York. Great hands and the instincts of a forward, a position he played in college.

2. Magic Johnson, L.A. He's 6 feet 8 and he could be a big forward, if necessary.

3. Sidney Moncrief, Milwaukee. Outstanding hang time and elusive, like Larry Smith.

4. Vinnie Johnson, Seattle. How do you ignore a guy 6 feet 1 who gets 193 offensive boards?

5. George Gervin, San Antonio. Not just a scorer, he gets over 400 boards every year.

And Five on the Rise

1. Kenny Carr, Cleveland. Quietly collected 835 rebounds last season; at 26, a late bloomer.

2. Kevin McHale, Boston. Will someone give this man 35 minutes a night?

3. Buck Williams, New Jersey. Cornerstone of the new Nets.

4. Mark Aguirre, Dallas. Closer to 6 feet 5 than 6 feet 7, but great legs and upper body.

5. Reggie King, Kansas City. A young Dave DeBusschere with a 'fro.

have a bunch of very big people going for one ball, chances are the ball is going to be batted around a lot. Many times you'll see guys tip the ball with the first jump, come back down and not be able to get back up again. So what's the use?"

Think miss. "You can't wait until the ball is coming off the rim," says Caldwell Jones. "You should know your shooters, what kind of shots they like and when they're going to take them. For example, with Julius Erving, I know that if he has the ball in the corner, he'll take two steps out and try a bank shot. If he misses, it'll come off on the other side, so that's where I go. If Maurice Cheeks is shooting from the key area, it'll probably come straight out high, so I don't go right for the basket."

Every rebound is, of course, shaped by the shot that causes it. A rebounder has a distinct edge if he knows how the various shots of the various players tend to behave.

Wes Unseld, who retired last spring as the NBA's sixth all-time rebounder, though he stood only 6 feet 7, recalls that it took him "no time" to learn that his Washington Bullet teammate Elvin Hayes, when he was tired, would shoot his turnaround jumper short. "He'd get the ball, I knew he'd be shooting, I'd run to the side where he was shooting and let the ball fall right into my hands."

Maurice Lucas conducts his own shooting drills for teammates after practice. He'll have each guy on the team shoot as many as 100 shots, just to see how many times each shot will go where and with what kind of arc and spin.

Can just anyone rebound? Probably not. And according to the record, certainly not. But there's no way to tell in advance who can and who can't. The leading offensive rebounder on Seattle last season, one of the better rebounding teams in the league, was the smallest player on the team—6-foot-1, 200-pound guard Vinnie Johnson. In fact, Johnson led all NBA guards in offensive rebounds. "I remember one game last season," says Johnson. "I had four or five rebounds in the first half, and after the last one, this guy says to me, 'What the hell are you doing down here?'"

A rebounder wouldn't have to ask. ★

Harvey Araton writes about basketball for the New York Post.



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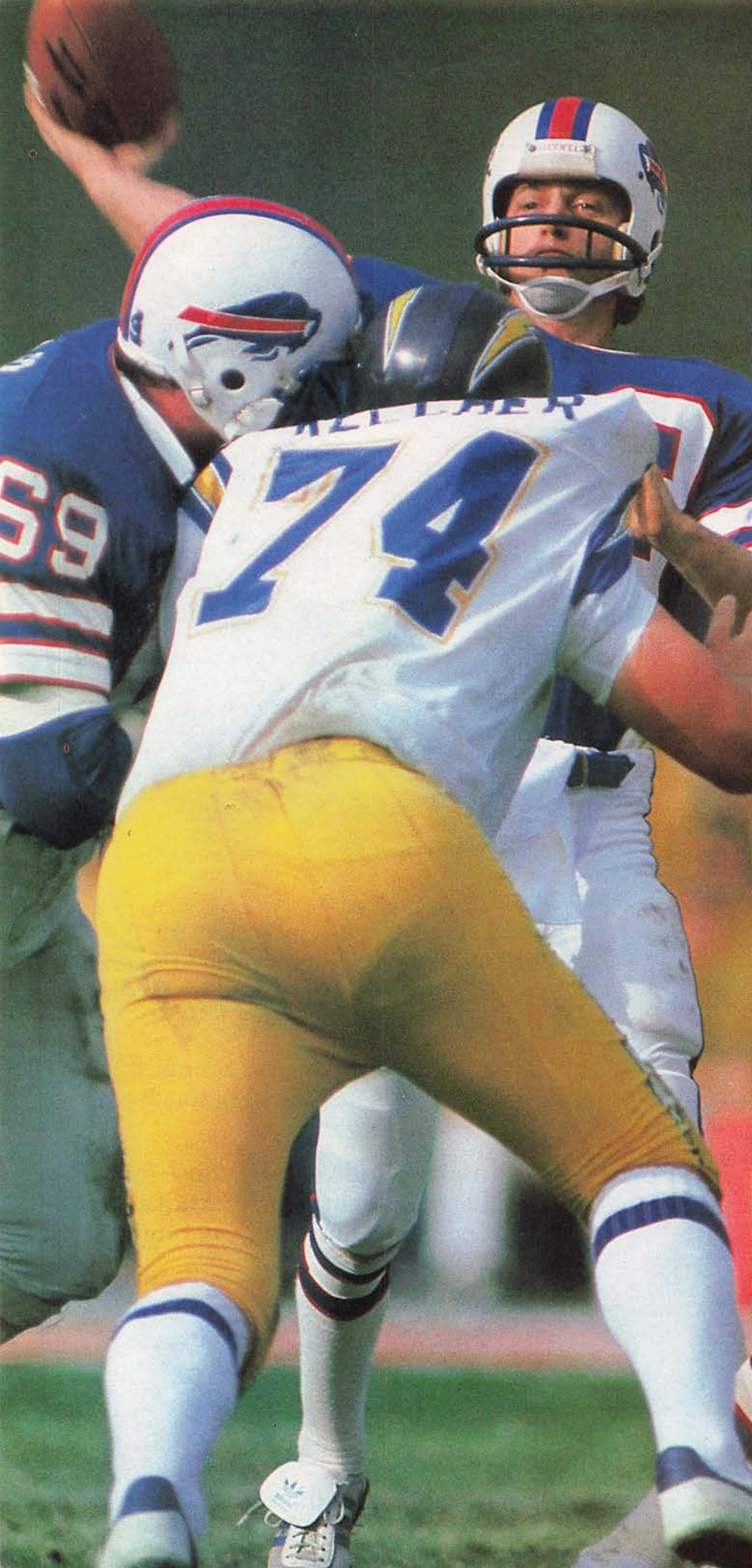
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A MASTER'S PLAN

Rebuilding used to be just an excuse for another losing season. Then came Chuck Knox and his shuffle up in Buffalo.

by Will McDonough

This is the season of redemption in the NFL. In cities like San Francisco, Kansas City, Cincinnati, even long-suffering New York, the term "rebuilding" is no longer a dirty word. Some things have suddenly gone right in those cities where things have for so long gone wrong. But has it been luck or design? Have they been rebuilt or just temporarily revived? After all, rebuilding can't happen so fast. Can it?

Luckily there is a fresh model to study, a team whose repair was as logical and efficient as fixing a leaky faucet. Consider the rebuilding blueprint of the Buffalo Bills, as drawn by architect and chief engineer Chuck Knox. Nobody's drawn it better.

The Task

It was raining in Orchard Park, New York, on September 18, 1977, when the Buffalo Bills took the field to open the season against the Miami Dolphins, a tough division rival. In those days in Buffalo, rain or shine, the Bills gave the ball to O.J. Simpson. The year before, Simpson had won his fourth NFL rushing title, though the rest of the team had

gone 2-12. Miami had the oranges, they used to say, but Buffalo had the Juice. On this day, the oranges won 13-0.

Simpson was the Bills' leading rusher and leading receiver in the game. But he failed to score, and so did the Bills. The Miami offense sputtered, but the defense simply loaded up on the Juice.

The skies were clear over Orchard Park four years later, on Monday night, October 12, 1981, when the Bills were again home for the Dolphins. Simpson was out of the league; in Buffalo he had been replaced by a couple of dozen players. Miami had been undefeated going into this game and had one of the best defenses in the league. In the first half the Bills scored 31 points on a field goal, a run and three touchdown passes. They burned Dolphin safety Don Bessillieu three times—on TD passes from Joe Ferguson to Jerry Butler for 28 yards, another to Joe Cribbs for 65 yards and another to Butler for 25 yards. At the start of the second half, the Bills switched from their explosive, quick-strike attack to a steady ball-control drive that yielded no points but ate up six minutes, and essentially ended the game. This time, the oranges lost to the Bills, 31-21.

Between those two games, the Bills had been broken down and rebuilt. Where once it had been Simpson or nothing, now the Bills had a varied, powerful attack. They had the ability to

The master draftsman is also a master tradesman: Knox's deals brought QB-saver Dobler (left) and QB-killer Simpson.

pick the weapon to exploit a weakness—like Bessillieu—and they had the gears to speed up or slow down as the conditions of the game changed. The NFL had witnessed a classic and rare event—the turnaround of a loser into a winner in less than four years.

Actually, by the time of that second game in Buffalo, the rebuilding was history. The Bills were already the defending champion of the AFC East. In three seasons—from 1978 to 1980—Chuck Knox had remade a team that had won five games in two years into an 11-5 champion. Entering 1981, Knox's fourth season, the Bills were widely regarded as a Super Bowl contender. Although they have slipped and slid en route to that goal—and may finish the season with a poorer record than the year before for the first time in Knox's tenure—the Bills have clearly emerged as one of the game's best balanced and most feared teams.

It has become the custom of potential empire builders in the NFL to allow five years for a major reclamation project. And it has been customary to genuflect to the annual draft of college players as the only sound means to that goal. When Knox took over in Buffalo, he had his own plan. It didn't mortgage the future for immediate success, as Washington had in the past and as Philadelphia had before the arrival of Dick Vermeil, a Knox protégé. Nor was it a clone of the Dallas and Pittsburgh systems of building exclusively through the draft, a course that has frustrated quite a few losers in recent seasons, most notably the Packers of Bart Starr. Knox's plan was based on certain lessons of his experience in the league and on his own pragmatic personality. He drafted, traded, rehabilitated and adjusted to make his Plan work.

Knox was an official NFL genius when he arrived in Buffalo in early 1978. He brought with him a portfolio of 15 years of study in the NFL and a firm idea of how to turn a loser into a winner. He had done that five years earlier in Los Angeles, where in his first year as a head coach he turned a 6-7-1 Rams team into a 12-2 division winner; he went on to win the division in each of his next four years there. And he had spawned two other official geniuses, Vermeil and Leeman Bennett, who would become head coach of a rebuilding Atlanta.

But by 1977 Knox wanted out of L.A. He wasn't happy with Carroll Rosenbloom or the organization, though Rosenbloom was quite happy with Knox. So happy in fact that he gave only

one team permission to try to lure Knox away—Buffalo. The choice was southern California or Siberia. Knox chose Siberia.

The Bills were coming off consecutive 2-12, 3-11 seasons. "I thought they must not have done a good job of drafting or scouting to get into that kind of situation," says Knox, "and when I got here I found out I was right. Actually, it was worse than I expected, but I knew what approach I wanted to take."

The Plan

"When you come through the system like I did," Knox says, "you are an observer. I wanted to learn as much as I possibly could, so I studied people at all levels of the organizations I worked for. I tried to find out as much as I could about other teams and what made them tick. And then comes the day you take all of it and make your own decisions on what is right and what is wrong."

There were, as Knox saw it, six essential parts to his plan to resurrect the Bills:

- **Power.** "To do this type of job a man must be in control of his own destiny. I wanted the power in a contract that would give me control over the football program. They gave it to me." The Bills made Knox vice-president in charge of football operations.

- **Scouting.** "Just as important as getting good players is getting good people to find those players. I didn't realize how bad the scouting situation was in Buffalo until I got here. It was in terrible shape. I went out and got my own people for the personnel department."

- **The draft.** "Our plan was to keep our top five draft choices every year unless it was absolutely imperative that we break this rule. And we would use the choices below round five to make trades."

- **Trades.** "People have been moving away from trades in this league for the most part in recent years. But we traded O.J. Simpson right away when I got here to get the draft choices we needed. And we made four other trades for veteran players who now start. I'm not afraid to trade for anyone, if he's a better player than the one we've got."

- **Reevaluation of existing talent.** "I didn't know that much about the personnel here because we didn't play Buffalo that much when I was coaching at Los Angeles. But I've learned that when it comes to players, you have to be fair. I wanted to give them a chance to prove what they could do."

- **Defense.** "You win on defense in this

And the

Losers take heart. If this NFL season has proven anything, it is that a rebuilding program can hit paydirt quite suddenly. Even a perennial plodder can find that last key ingredient and start running with the winners. And sometimes even one player seems to make the final difference. This season the phenomenon has happened in three unexpected places: Kansas City, Cincinnati and San Francisco.

Kansas City

Defense and the draft were the key words around Kansas City when Marv Levy took over the Chiefs in late 1977. An improving defense carried the Chiefs to steadily improving records over the next three seasons, from 4-12 in 1978 to 8-8 in '80. But the neglected offense stalled, finishing last, next to last and last again over the same period. That offense suddenly blossomed this year, carrying the Chiefs to the top of the AFC in rushing and into solid contention for the Western Division title.

In the winter of 1977-78, Levy announced his commitment to the draft, and he has stuck with it—his roster is not soiled by the presence of even one player acquired by trade. Having inherited a solid defensive backfield, Levy concentrated on building the rest of the unit; in his first two drafts he acquired defensive ends Art Still and Mike Bell and inside linebacker Gary Spani—each of whom would become a top player in the league at his position.

Meanwhile the offense had picked up some good but unspectacular personnel—quarterbacks Steve Fuller and Bill Kenney, fullback James Hadnot, tight end Al Dixon, guard Brad Budde. But the unit hadn't jelled; there was no flash, no pizzazz. Enter Joe Delaney.

A second-round pick in '81, Delaney, a running back from obscure Northwest Louisiana, was noted for his speed. Kansas City got much more. He became the Chiefs' first home-run threat and quickly moved up among Earl Campbell and Joe Cribbs at the top of the AFC rushing list. He loosened up the defenses, helping the Chiefs to reduce their sacks-allowed rate by half. The quiet, conservative offense gained some pop—even some magic. And when a team is ready, as the Chiefs were, a little magic can make all the difference.

Cincinnati

The turnaround trail of the Bengals, who to the surprise of many have led the

Last Shall Be First: Year of the Turnaround

AFC Central Division for much of this season, began in 1977. The Bengals had nine picks in the first five rounds of the draft that year, and the same in '78. In all, over five drafts from '77 through '81, Cincinnati acquired a dozen starters. Today the entire roster consists of draftees and precious few free agents.

In the '77 and '78 drafts, the Bengals acquired a first-rate defensive line: nose tackle Wilson Whitley and defensive ends Ross Browner and Eddie Edwards. In late '79, the rebuilding got a second boost with the hiring of Forrest Gregg as head coach. Gregg brought two qualities to the young team—a drill-sergeant manner and an expertise in offensive line play. In their first draft under Gregg, the Bengals took big tackle Anthony Munoz, and reaped big dividends.

But the offense was dull, finishing 1980 with the fewest TDs in the league. There was talent at quarterback (Ken Anderson), fullback (Pete Johnson) and receiver (Isaac Curtis), but the unit needed a new threat. The '81 draft bought him. Enter Cris Collinsworth. Collinsworth won a starting spot opposite Curtis and immediately helped raise

the Bengal passing attack from 13th in the 14-team AFC last season to fourth at the midpoint of '81. Collinsworth's pass-catching prowess allowed Anderson to keep his running backs in the backfield to block, giving the quarterback time to throw and, for once, an injury-free season. One key draft brought an outdated attack into the era of air ball.

San Francisco

Coach Bill Walsh was already enamored of the passing game when he joined the 49ers in early 1979. From the start he also had a freestyle way of stocking talent. In each of his three seasons he has heavily turned over his personnel through the draft, waivers and trades. This season he hit the right combination, surprising L.A., Atlanta and the rest of the league by leading the Western Division of the NFC for most of the season, after finishing 6-10 last year.

Walsh drafted mainly for offense in his first year (quarterback Joe Montana and wide receiver Dwight Clark) and filled a couple of defensive holes with free agents. That season, the defense gave up more points than any club in the NFC. The next draft brought three defensive starters in the first five

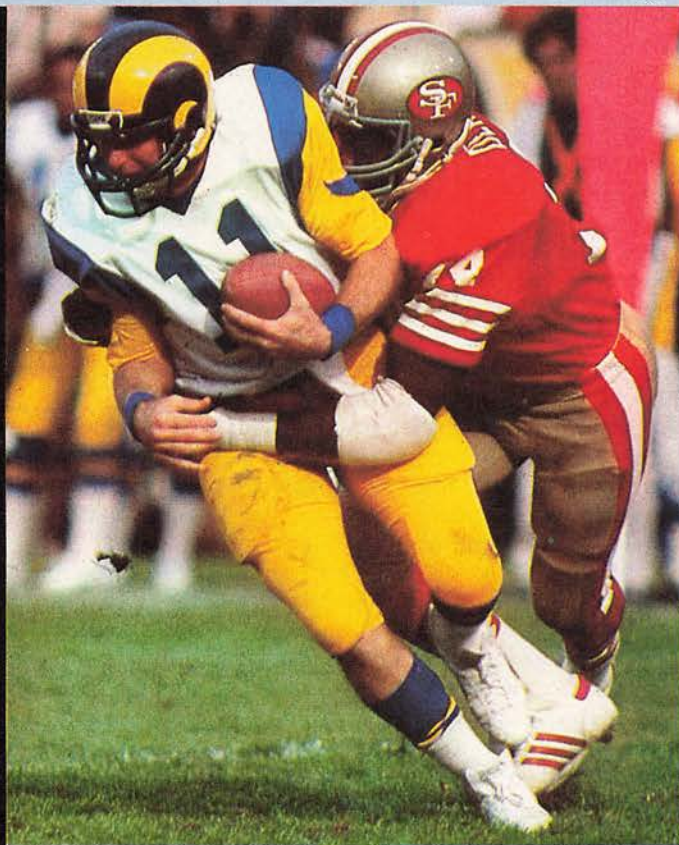
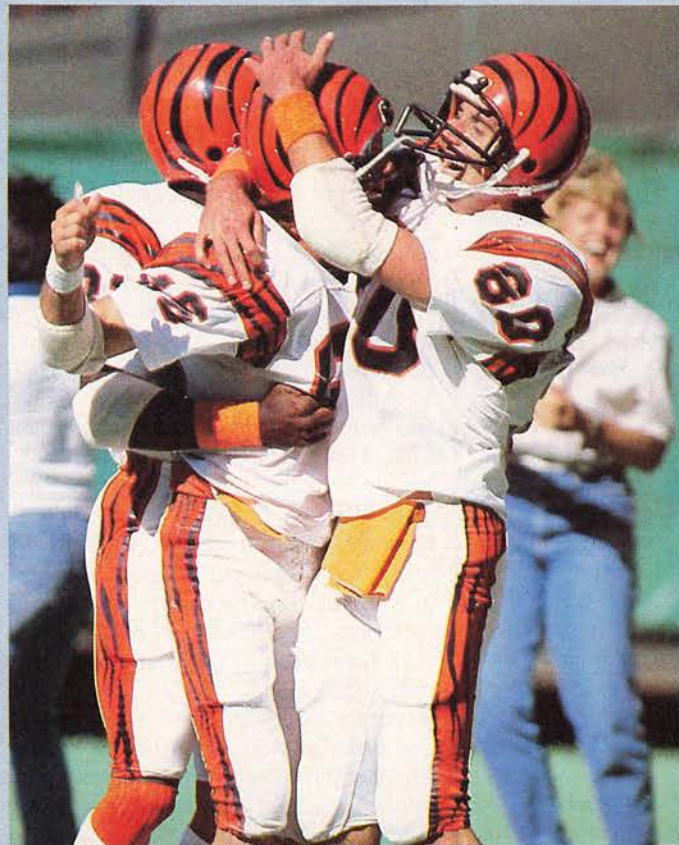
rounds; they were supplemented by more free agents and by trades that brought five veterans. Alas, the defense improved by one less point allowed.

The offense, however, was dazzling in '80 behind Steve DeBerg and Montana, and produced the two top receivers in the AFC (Clark and running back Earl Cooper). But Walsh still needed more defense, so he overhauled it again in '81. He started three rookies in the defensive backfield, and he picked up middle linebacker Jack Reynolds from L.A. Then he pulled a real steal. Enter Fred Dean.

Dean, an all-pro defensive end but a contract holdout in San Diego, became the dominant force on defense, maximizing the effectiveness of Reynolds and the talented rookies behind him. The defense that had finished next to last in the NFC last season suddenly became ferocious. That allowed the offense to take fewer risks; Montana became the highest rated quarterback in the conference.

This is not the team even Walsh foresaw before the season. But with a bold defense, a somewhat quieter offense, and mean Fred Dean, it works.

-Peter Griffin



New hands: sure-catch Collinsworth (80) made Cincy giddy; strong-armed Dean made Frisco mean.

Knox and DeLamielleure didn't get along. That made DeLamielleure expendable.

league. I also like to have the type of team that our fans can identify with. I thought of Buffalo as a blue-collar town with the same type of people I grew up with in Pennsylvania. Good, hard-working people who like to see their football *played*. So we decided to concentrate on bringing our defense together first."

1978: Year of the Broom

It was a cold winter in the Buffalo front office in 1978. Chuck Knox opened his campaign with a blitzkrieg on the scouting front. In one quick thrust he obliterated the old scouting department and brought in his own staff, headed by old friend Norm Pollock, who had 16 years of experience in the NFL and had been with Knox in L.A. Next Knox pulled the Bills out of BLESTO, the largest scouting combine in the NFL. "All of the teams in our division were in BLESTO," says Knox. "I didn't want to have to share information with them." Instead, the Bills joined an independent service put together by Dallas, Seattle and San Francisco.

Then Knox started stocking talent. The Bills made 15 trades in that first year; the biggest—in the history of the franchise—sent O.J. Simpson to San Francisco for five draft choices, including a second-round and a third-round pick that year. "I knew that O.J. wanted to get back to the West Coast. And I knew he was the one thing we had that could bring the draft choices we wanted and needed," Knox says. Beyond that, Knox gave up future low-round picks for a harvest of veterans in what observers at the time likened to a Broadway tryout. Most of the moves were inconsequential, except one—the trade of tight end Paul Seymour to Pittsburgh for veteran wide receiver Frank Lewis. Lewis became a starter and a clutch receiver; his 18-yard-per-catch average is the best in Bills history. To this day, Knox considers that deal one of the best he's ever made.

His first draft was also unremarkable. Number one pick Terry Miller seemed to be a brilliant discovery when he rushed for 1,060 yards in his first season, but his performance faded and so did he, shipped out in a trade two

years later. The two choices received in the Simpson trade (defensive end Scott Hutchinson and wide receiver Danny Fulton) also failed to pan out, although Hutchinson remains as a reserve. The lower rounds proved more productive, yielding linebacker Lucius Sanford on



Joe Cribbs was drafted with the final pick from the O.J. deal.

the fourth and center Will Grant on the 10th; both would become starters, and both would justify Knox's emphasis on scouting.

Knox continued his auditioning into the 1978 season, a dismal year that ended with a 5-11 record, better than the two previous years' records but miserable nonetheless. It was a shake-down season. By the time the year was over, Knox had eliminated half of the starting team.

1979: Year of the Draft

What bothered Knox most about his first season was his defense. It had given up 20 or more points in eight of

its 16 games, and 30 or more in four games. And it had been a long time, back to the mid-Sixties in fact, since the Bills had fielded a decent defense.

Knox stuck with a 4-3 defensive alignment in his first season because that was what he knew from his coaching career with the Jets, Detroit and Los Angeles. It worked particularly well in L.A., but it wasn't working in Buffalo.

"When we sat down and looked at 1979," Knox says, "we put all of our players' names on the board and tried to figure out just who were our best 11 players on defense. The answer came right back to us. Our linebackers were better than our down linemen. It dictated that we go to a 3-4, and get people who could play the 3-4. This was easier to do because there were more good linebackers coming out of college than there were good down linemen."

Knox had four choices to spend in the first two rounds of the 1979 draft (including another two from the Simpson trade). He used the first choice in the draft to take linebacker Tom Cousineau of Ohio State. Knox took wide receiver Jerry Butler with his second pick in round one, but returned to defense in round two, grabbing nose tackle Fred Smerlas and linebacker Jim Haslett. The latter three would become starters, and within two years Butler and Smerlas would be all-pro. But not Cousineau. Within two months of the draft, Knox's top pick signed with Montreal of the Canadian Football League. That is a sore spot with Knox, and something of a blind spot in his Plan. Despite his title and authority, he couldn't finally insure that the Bills' front office would do all that it could do to sign Cousineau. (Knox hopes finally to acquire Cousineau in 1982.)

Nonetheless, the draft was an enormous success. All eight of Knox's picks after Cousineau in the first five rounds made the squad, and all but one of them are still with the team. Haslett and Smerlas would join holdover linebacker Shane Nelson to form the Bermuda Triangle, the heart of the new 3-4 defense. Butler would become the most explosive receiver in team history; he and Frank Lewis gave veteran quarter-

Continued on page 72

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CURE FOR

The prescription in St. Louis reads Mike Liut—the goalie



THE BLUES

who has saved the Blues franchise, both on the ice and off.

by David Murray

St. Louis, April 22, 1981: The Blues, one loss away from elimination, trail the New York Rangers by two goals midway through the second period in the fifth game of the Stanley Cup quarterfinals. The New Yorkers have the St. Louis attack neatly wrapped up, and their forays against goaltender Mike Liut are getting more dangerous by the minute. Suddenly, the Rangers' Anders Hedberg springs free with the puck at the blueline and bores in on goal with only one defenseman in tow. As Liut sets himself for the shot, Hedberg glides a perfect backhand pass to teammate Peter Wallin crossing directly in front of the net. Wallin has the puck—and the series—on his stick; it is a sure goal. But as he shoots, Liut lunges across the crease and, somehow, reaches the puck with his blocking glove, sending it skittering into the corner.

Immediately the momentum shifts to St. Louis. Larry Patey and Jorgen Pettersson score to tie the game; Pettersson puts the pumped-up Blues ahead with a goal in the final period. The Rangers continue to press, but the sense within the Checkerdome is unmistakable: Liut has slammed the

door; there will be no more Ranger goals.

"The big one, that's what Mike gives us," says Ernie (the Cat) Francis, the Blues' president and GM. "When the game is on the line, he's the best there is." St. Louis coach Red Berenson simply says, "Mike is the reason we have come as far as we have."

The Blues went no further in 1980-81, succumbing to the Rangers in game six. But the young team established itself as a legitimate contender for the Stanley Cup, and a new name was entered in the annals of hockey folklore. The name flew off the lips of fans in St. Louis with delight and dropped from the open mouths of disbelieving fans around the league—even if they couldn't pronounce it. "Loo-ite?" "Lie-utt?"

Well, it's Lee-oot, and it's a name worth remembering. In this age when most winning teams work two goalies in tandem—the last five Vezina Trophy winners (for fewest goals allowed) have been goalie squads—Mike Liut is a new breed of goaltender. He is a hybrid: a throwback to the days of the one-man, workhorse goaltending squad, but also the pacesetter on the ice. His skill evokes names from the past, like Bill Durnan, Terry Sawchuk and Glenn



It takes guts, they say, to play goalie; Liut (left) puts his to good use. At the other end, Blues captain Brian Sutter (right) tries to blow one past the opposition.

Liut was second in last year's MVP voting, the best showing by a goalie in 20 years.

Hall, but his value to the team transcends his ability to stop the puck. Liut finished second by one vote to Edmonton's Wayne Gretzky in the balloting for MVP in the NHL last season (the Hart Trophy)—the highest finish for a goaltender since Jacques Plante won the honor in 1962—despite a 3.34 goals against average that was only 14th best in the league. The 25-year-old from Weston, Ontario has contributed mightily to the astonishing turnaround of the Blues, a team that just four years ago foundered aimlessly in the standings and faced dissolution in the bankruptcy courts. There are many, including Emile Francis, who claim that Mike Liut has been a vital ingredient in saving the St. Louis franchise.

Most expansion franchises in sports struggle from birth just to avoid embarrassment. The Blues, though, seemed destined for greatness; their start was unparalleled in sports history. In their first year in the NHL, 1967, St. Louis put together a team of seasoned veterans—Glenn Hall, Red Berenson and Al Arbour—and soared to the finals of the Stanley Cup. They repeated that feat the next two seasons, made the playoffs their first six years and led the league in attendance for five.

But age gradually crept up on the team's veteran stars, draft choices and trades were questioned, and conflicts arose between owner Sidney Saloman Jr. and a steady stream of coaches and administrators. When Emile Francis, no stranger to hockey or turmoil after eight and a half frustrating years trying to win a Stanley Cup for the New York Rangers, arrived in St. Louis in April of 1976, he inherited a team with only one certifiable star, Garry Unger, and debts of close to \$10 million.

The Blues operated on a shoestring budget. If a player wanted a new stick, he had to hand a broken one in to Francis. After a fight left gloves and sticks strewn about the ice, it was not unusual to see several Blues try to appropriate as many enemy sticks as possible. "It was unbelievable," says Francis. "Every time I saw a puck go into the stands I was ready to go after it."

By the time of the annual NHL sum-

mer meetings in Montreal in 1977, Francis was convinced that the team would be dissolved; he had even prepared a statement for the press. Then, in a scene from a B-movie, there was a reprieve: Ralston-Purina had decided to rescue the Blues for \$4 million. "An 11th-hour phone call from the governor," says the Cat with a smile.

To Francis' credit, the team's dismal finances never hampered his ability to judge and develop talent. In his first year he drafted Bernie Federko and Brian Sutter, who have both become all-star forwards. Subsequent drafts produced players such as Wayne Babych, a 54-goal scorer last season, and Perry Turnbull, a bruising left wing



A "mountain with long arms" in the nets, Liut stares down a play in the corner.

who can check as well as score. Shrewd trades engineered by Francis added Rick LaPointe and Ed Kea to the defense.

Francis fashioned a team that played a brisk, tight checking game with an emphasis on skating and passing, but the rebuilding was not complete. After winning the Smythe Division and losing out in the quarterfinals in 1976-77, the team could only muster 20 and 18 wins the next two years, missing the playoffs both times. In 1978-79, with Ed Staniowski and Phil Myre doing most of the netminding, the Blues had a cumulative goals against average of 4.35, last in the 17-team league. The Blues at their best brought to mind some Canadian teams of the recent past. Yet where such teams had a Doug Harvey or Serge Savard or Larry Robinson patrolling the blueline, St. Louis had no dominating defensemen to control the tempo of the game. Increased responsibility fell to the goaltender to keep the team in the game.

Enter Mike Liut.

Liut had been drafted by Francis out of Bowling Green in 1976, but chose to go to Cincinnati of the World Hockey Association for nearly twice the amount offered by the impoverished Blues. When the shooting gallery that was the WHA folded its tent, Francis was there with the newfound money to bring Liut to St. Louis. The Cat, who had scouted the goaltender in the other league, was so confident of Liut's ability that he dealt goalie Phil Myre to Philadelphia to clear a spot on the roster. "I knew we had a good one," Francis says.

A good one, indeed. In Liut's first season (1979-80), the Blues improved their record by a full 16 games in the win column, and made the playoffs largely by cutting their goals against total by 70, almost a goal a game. Liut, who played in 64 of the 80 games, led the league in wins, with 32.

Last season, led once again by Liut's ironman job in the nets (61 games), the Blues surged to the top of the league standings, finishing second in the regular season only to the Stanley Cup champion New York Islanders with a 45-18-17 mark for 107 points. Liut won 33 of those games, which established him as the first goaltender to break into the

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**NAVY. IT'S NOT JUST A JOB.
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NHL with consecutive 30-win seasons since the venerable Bill Durnan of the Canadiens in the early Forties. Attendance at the Checkerdome has boomed—the Blues averaged over 14,000 per home game last season—and the franchise is once again on very solid footing, on the ice and in the ledgers. So who is this masked man who has brought such a tide of good fortune back to St. Louis? “He’s our savior,” says one young fan. “Get it?” Yes, we get it. They don’t call them the St. Liut Blues for nothing.

It takes a certain breed of insanity to stand in the way of 100 mph slap shots, but there is little of the eccentric in Liut. Perhaps his greatest gift is the leadership and stability—hardly ever associated with NHL goaltenders—he provides. It is hard to imagine him losing his pregame steak or taking up knitting, as Glenn Hall and Jacques Plante did, in order to relieve the pressure and anxiety that attend the position. But, according to Liut, there is no added pressure. “Your job is to stop the puck,” he says. “Either you do or you don’t. You can’t worry about what went before or what might happen next.”

Yet, Liut’s laid-back assessment of his job belies his fiery competitive nature once the game begins. In a late season contest last year, St. Louis held a four-goal lead over the Rangers well into the second period. Then, in a collapse that presaged their upset in the playoffs, the Blues sagged badly and left Liut defenseless for three quick goals. The goaltender exploded with anger in the locker-room during intermission.

“I went a little crazy,” Liut recalls, “throwing things around, yelling and swearing at some guys. I was ripped. A good team does not let that happen.”

Awakened by that outburst, the Blues played a tight, controlled third period and skated off with a win. The lesson was not lost on anyone. Says teammate Bernie Federko, “We accept him as he is. He doesn’t ask anything of us that he doesn’t ask of himself.”

Liut’s second-place finish in the Hart Trophy voting last year was as much a rarity as it was a confirmation of his importance to the team. Many top-rated goalies like Gump Worsley and Gilles Meloche suffered with weak defenses in front of them, yet Liut manages to improve the play of everyone around him. Defensemen like Gerry Hart and Bill Stewart, who have bounced around the various leagues, had very effective years in 1980-81. Both credit Liut. As Rick LaPointe says, “It’s nice to know

that if you make a mistake in your zone, the puck doesn’t automatically end up in the net.”

Technically, Liut is as complete as any young goalie the league has seen in many years. His high goals against average is a result of a high shots against average and his tendency to let up when a game is a laughter or a lost cause. He is toughest when the game is on the line. At 6 feet 2, 180 pounds, “He’s like a mountain with long arms,” says Los Angeles Kings star winger Charlie Simmer. Ex-goalie Francis believes that Liut’s size allows him to cut down shooters’ angles and scoring opportunities without venturing dangerously far from the net. His size, quickness and agility are all essential to his success, but it is his instinct for the game that ele-

The Blues sagged badly and Liut exploded. “I went a little crazy,” he says.

vates him above the rest. He plays smart. Says the Rangers’ Hedberg, “Just when you think you have him beat, he comes up with the save—as if he knew all along where you were going.” “He doesn’t make the first move,” adds the Cat, “he makes the shooter commit himself and then he reacts. He’s not going to beat himself.”

Liut’s stand-up style has been compared to that of former Montreal great Ken Dryden: both have been called thinking man’s goalies. While the comparison does not displease him, he resists the pigeonhole. “People have described me as a stand-up goalie, which really isn’t true. Who is, exclusively? Sometimes you have to go down to the ice to make a save—it’s the only way. What’s important to me, more than *how* I make a save, is my position after each successive shot. Hopefully, the puck will be cleared or I’ll be able to cover up, but if not, I must be ready to make the second save, to think ahead, to be ready for a third.” He smiles. “Some nights there’s a fourth.”

The Blues’ stay in last year’s playoffs was unexpectedly brief considering their whirlwind performance during the regular season. “Sure it was a disap-

pointment to lose in the quarters,” says Liut, “but in no way did it spoil the season for us. It’s a little heady to be fighting just to make the playoffs one year and be contending for the Stanley Cup the next. We’ll grow into it. This year we’re concentrating on pacing ourselves for the playoffs.”

There was some criticism directed at coach Red Berenson last season for playing Liut too much; he started 27 of the last 30 games and in all 11 playoff contests. Liut claims to like and need the work, but has shown a tendency to tire after too many consecutive nights. In fact, he appeared weary at points during the playoff against New York, and there were stretches when the club played rudderless, spotty hockey precisely because another on-ice leader did not materialize.

Still, the Blues produced the most improved record in the NHL for the second successive year, and Berenson was named coach of the year. It is the Stanley Cup that now looms as the ultimate goal. Emile Francis, last year’s NHL executive of the year, continues to work on strengthening the team’s nucleus, searching for a big skater to solidify the defense on his high-scoring team. Francis traded last year’s backup goalie Ed Staniowski, defenseman Bryan Maxwell and winger Paul MacLean to Winnipeg in July for 6-foot-3, 205-pound defenseman Scott Campbell, a Francis pick in the 1977 amateur draft who the Blues hope will be the next Denis Potvin. Although he was sidelined with an injury early in the season, Campbell is expected to give Liut some needed protection.

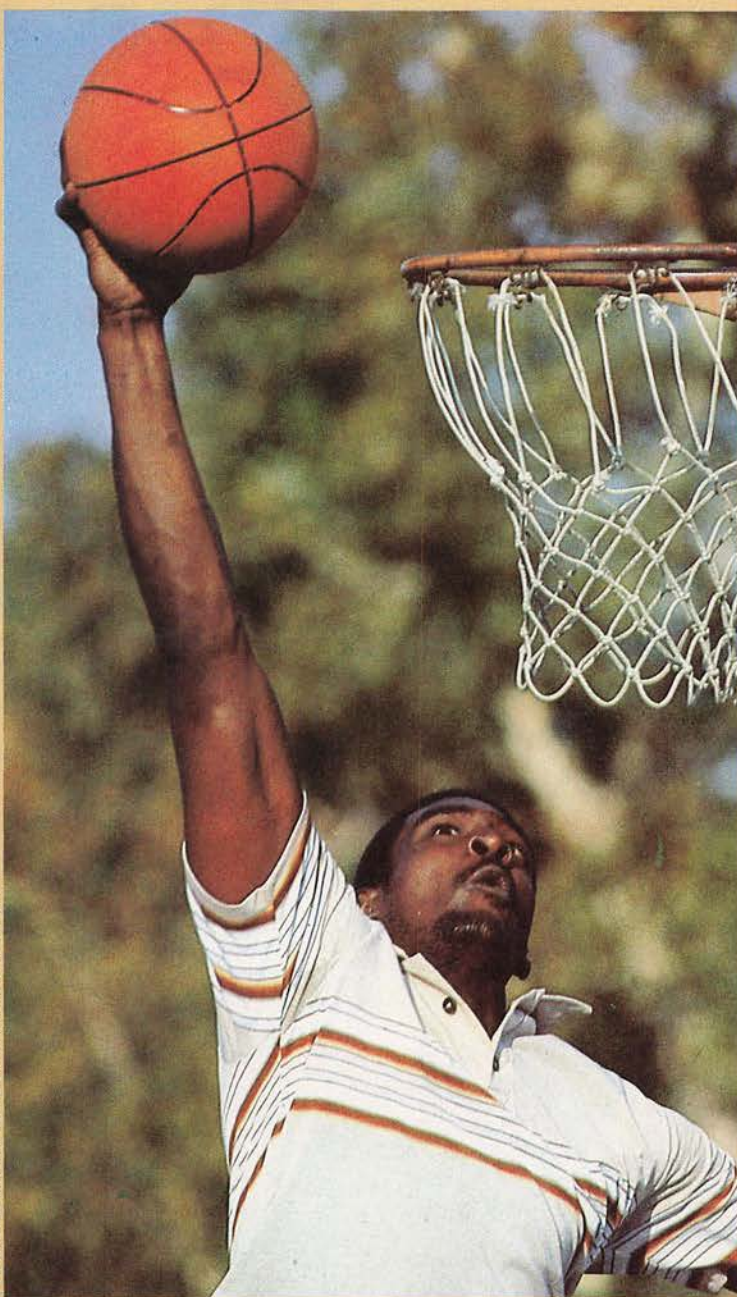
To spell Liut, Francis also acquired backup goalie Gary Edwards and brought up netminder Rick Heinz from the Blues’ fine Salt Lake City club, champion of the Central Hockey League last season. Berenson says he is resting Liut more in practice and notes that the wear and tear of travel will be less this season, thanks to the NHL divisional realignment. Still, he expects another 55-game season from Liut.

One thing is for sure: when the stretch run begins for the Blues, they will again look to Liut to lead the way. It is also certain that Liut’s role in the salvation of a hockey club will not soon be forgotten, in St. Louis or around the NHL. And that’s Lee-oot, remember. Say it again, get it right. After a while, it comes easy. ★

David Murray is a freelance writer based in New York City.

KEVIN WHO?

Kevin Magee—the best college basketball player you never heard of.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN MCDONOUGH

by Stu Black

The press notices should have started gushing forth early last season, when 10th-ranked Texas A&M, with a front line averaging 6 feet 10, lost to a lightly regarded University of California at Irvine team, 91-74. A young man named Kevin Magee scored 34 points and grabbed 13 rebounds for Irvine, launching fast breaks with his outlet passes and finishing breaks with his elegant jump shots. But there weren't many newspaper men around after the game to hear Shelby Metcalf, the Aggie coach, say, "Magee tore us up. He just whipped our people on both backboards."

Banner headlines should have screamed the name of the 6-foot-8, 230-pound, center/forward last summer after the World University Games in Rumania, where a team of U.S. college stars defeated Russia, Yugoslavia and other international powers. Once again, this Kevin Magee rebounded, ran the fast break and picked up 31 points against the taller Russians on 15-foot jump shots and three-point drives to the basket. But the TV cameras weren't there in the lockerroom to report the laurels

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Magee versus the Russians: 31 points, eight steals and a truckload of rebounds.

laid on by his U.S. teammates. "He played like a man possessed," said Howard Carter of LSU. "Kevin Magee," said John Bagley, Boston College's all-American guard, "is the main reason we beat the Russians in the title game."

Kevin Magee is the best college basketball player you never heard of. All he did last season, his first as a Division I player, was score 27.5 points per game (third in the nation), rebound at a 12.5 clip (fourth in the nation) and connect on 67.1 percent of his shots (second in the nation). In the history of NCAA basketball, no one had ever finished in the top four in three categories in one season. Yet, there are dog sled racers in Alaska who have gotten more press than Magee.

Anonymity is the price one must pay for playing basketball at UC Irvine. Although situated only 45 miles southeast of its first cousin, UCLA, the school is of another basketball world. UC Irvine plays in the PCAA, a far cry from the glamorous Pac-10. In the past, the national press often spelled the school's name Irving. And who can take seriously a team whose nickname is the "Anteaters"? But this little-known school is where little-known Kevin Magee, now a 22-year-old senior, is finally beginning to make a name for himself after a strange odyssey, a ragged route that saw a hugely talented but confused young man nearly disappear from his sport.

Magee's adventures began in Magnolia, Mississippi, in the spring of 1977. In his senior year at South Pike High, he led his underdog team into the finals of the state championship and was flooded with recruiting offers from over 100

schools. Baltimore Colts quarterback Bert Jones, on behalf of Louisiana Tech, his alma mater, flew Kevin to the Ruston, Louisiana campus in his private jet. It was heady stuff for a small-town boy. And, as is the way in small towns, the local star's destination became everyone's business.

There were many arched eyebrows in Magnolia, a town of about 2,000 people, when Magee chose Southeastern Louisiana over the University of Houston. Many of the locals were disappointed that he had chosen a small school; it was as if they expected him to carry the banner of Magnolia into the national limelight. Their disillusionment deepened when Magee left the Louisiana school after only three months.

"I wasn't ready for college then," Magee says now. "I didn't go to class.

Southeastern was only 40 miles from my house. I wanted to stay close to home. I didn't want to leave my mom and girl. Each weekend I would come home and find it harder to go back."

After his first college experience, Magee worked in a Louisiana steel mill for a few months. Hard work restored his zest for school. He headed again for the University of Houston, where he had previously committed himself before changing his mind at the last moment.

"Houston wanted him badly," recalls James Manning, the assistant coach at South Pike High. "Guy Lewis, Houston's coach, visited him more than once. One of his assistants said he was the second coming of Elvin Hayes."

The second coming of Elvin Hayes quickly became the second leaving of Kevin Magee. Within two months he left Houston disappointed about having to sit out a year because he was a transfer student, and upset, it was rumored,

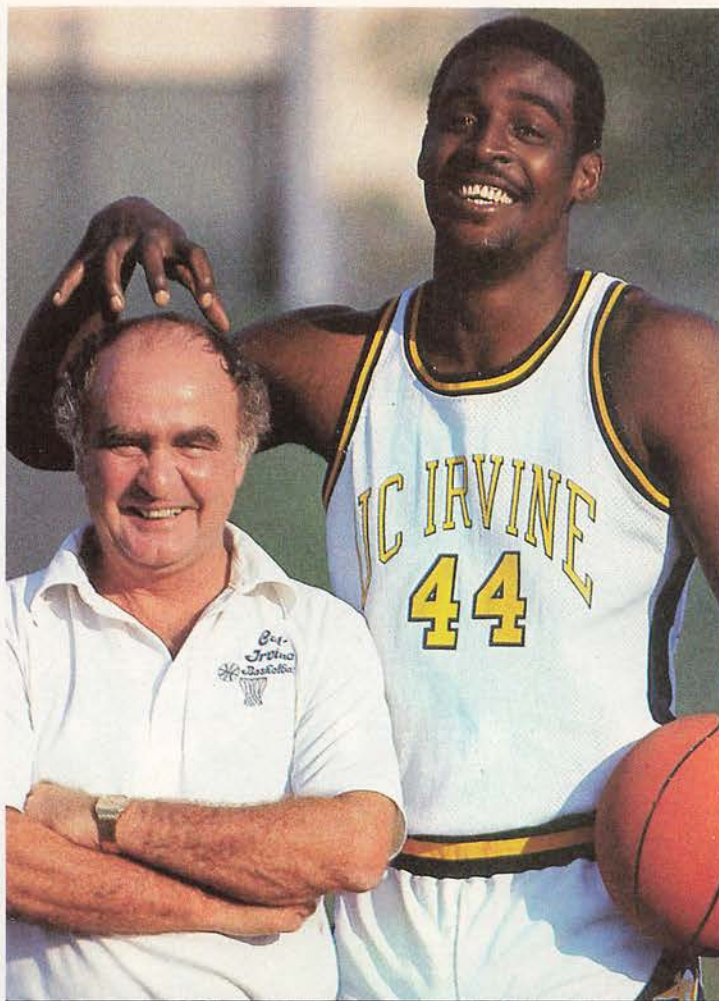
The All-Unknown Stars Team. See page 67.

that he was not treated more deferentially at the basketball powerhouse. "There wasn't anything wrong with the people at Houston," Magee says. "It was me. I still wasn't ready to go to college."

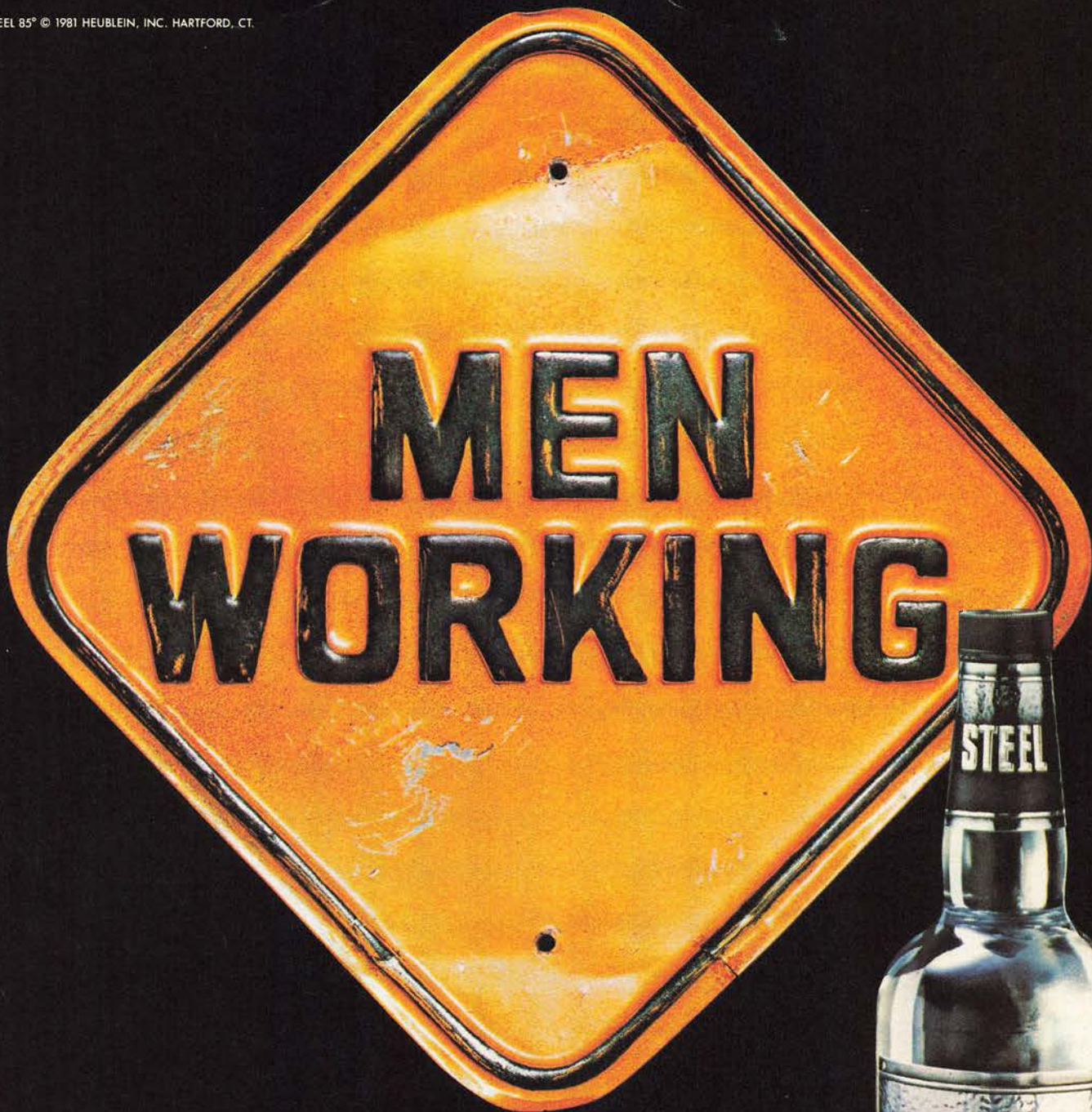
A few more months at a steel mill—this time in Gary, Indiana, where his father was working—convinced Magee to give college another try. The College of the Ozarks was by now the only four-year school willing to open its doors to Magee. A week later Magee walked back out those doors, convinced that higher education in the small school in Clarksville, Arkansas was not for him.

The coach at the College of the Ozarks, Jack Hol-

Continued on page 67



Mulligan stopped Magee from wandering. Now the coach is his guru, planning the star's next move.



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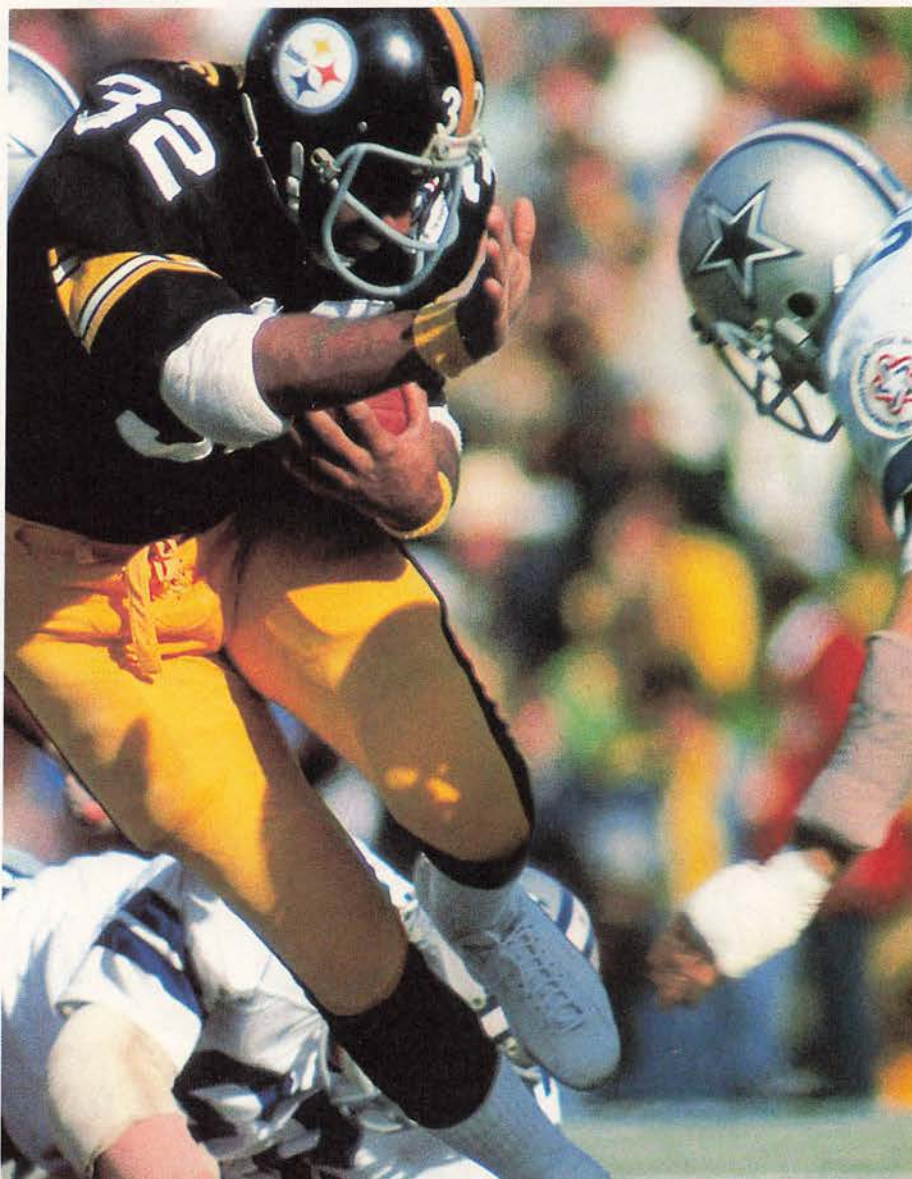


Photo by Irv Babri

Every Super Bowl is marked by a few superlative performances. In anticipation of Super Bowl XVI, we look back at the first 15 years—and pick the 27 greatest performers of all.

THE SUPERHERES

The All-Time Super Bowl Team
BY DAVE ANDERSON



Franco Harris, running back, Pittsburgh Steelers

With its pomp and pageantry, the Super Bowl has evolved into America's biggest one-day sports event. More than 100 million people watch it on television, waiting for somebody to emerge as a folk hero.

In the week before the game, the Super Bowl is mostly a festival of build-ups, matchups and parties. But what happens down on the field is what the Super Bowl is really all about; one big play under America's microscope can follow a player for the rest of his life. Now that Super Bowl XVI is about to be played, there have been enough games to justify the selection of an all-time Super Bowl team.

Some of the selections were easy, some difficult. When in doubt, those who made the big plays were awarded higher priority, if for no other reason than that Super Bowl games usually are decided by big plays.

Here's my team—offense, defense, specialists and coach:

Quarterback

Joe Namath, New York Jets

He made the Super Bowl super. In both games I and II the Packers had affirmed that the NFL's best team was clearly superior to the AFL's best teams, the Chiefs and the Raiders. Before III, the Colts were established as a 17-point favorite; the betting line later went as high as 18 and even 19

Dave Anderson, a Pulitzer Prize-winning sports columnist for the New York Times, has attended the last 13 Super Bowls.



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points. But on the Thursday night before Super Bowl III, the Jets' quarterback stood up to speak at a Miami Touchdown Club dinner honoring him.

"We're going to win Sunday," Namath said easily. "I'll guarantee you."

NAMATH FULFILLED his guarantee by completing 17 of 28 passes (still the most without an interception in any Super Bowl game) for 206 yards and a

The Super Bowl

16-7 victory. Other quarterbacks have been spectacular. Terry Bradshaw has thrown for 932 yards and nine touchdowns in four Steeler victories, including 318 yards and four touchdowns in XIII. Bart Starr of the Packers, Roger Staubach of the Cowboys and Bob Griese of the Dolphins each guided two triumphs. But no quarterback made the Super Bowl what it is now more than Namath did.

He not only made the big plays, he made the big game big.

Running Backs

Franco Harris, Pittsburgh Steelers

Midway in the last quarter of XIII the Steelers were ahead but struggling, 21-17, until Harris burst 22 yards for a touchdown. Moments before he had growled at Thomas (Hollywood) Henderson after the flamboyant Cowboy linebacker threw down Terry Bradshaw after a whistle.

"That was totally uncalled for," Harris said later. "I told him what I thought of him."

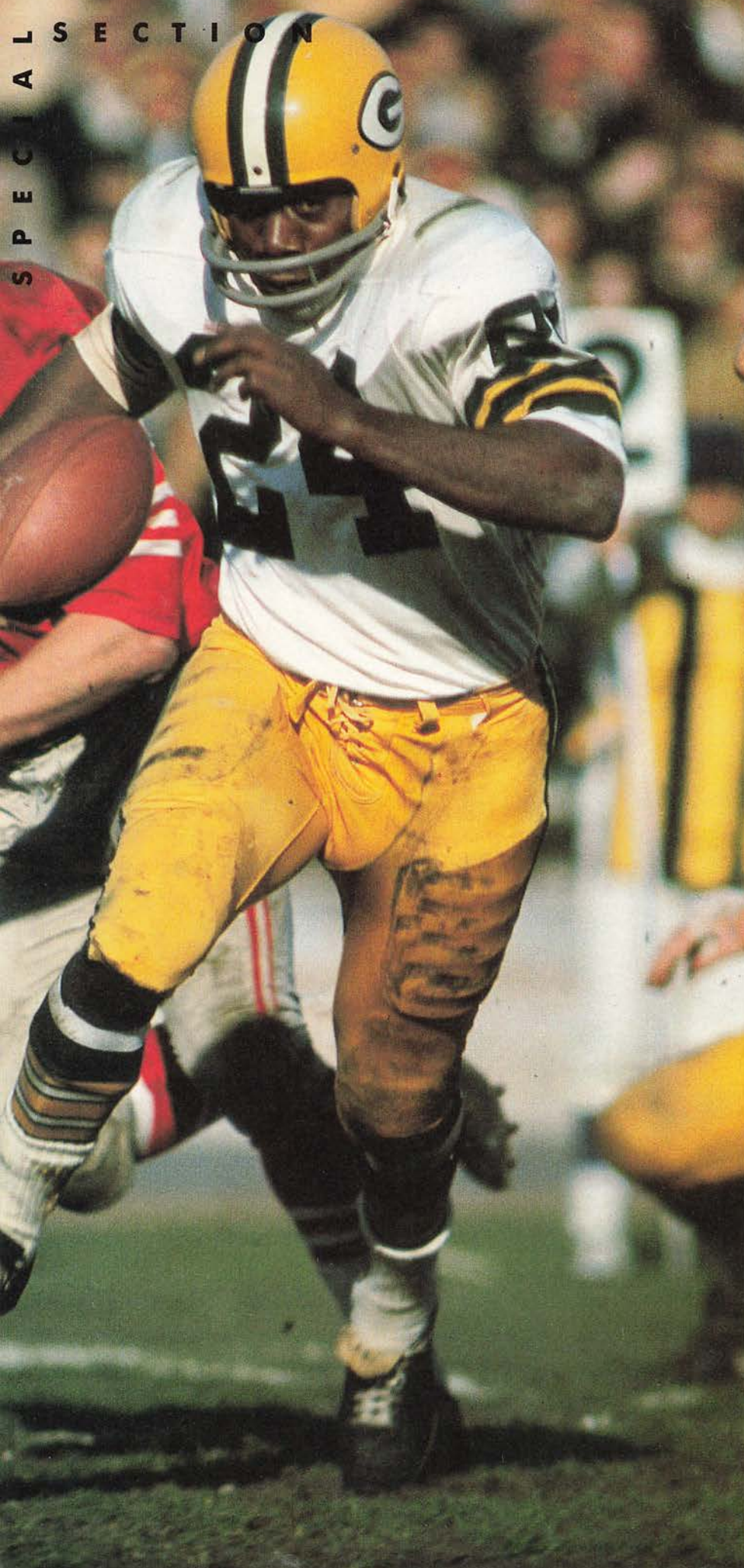
For emphasis, Harris exploded for what Lynn Swann calls "the greatest touchdown run I've ever seen." Steeler center Mike Webster described him as "having a jet engine in him on that play," known as 93-Trap in the Steeler playbook. When the Cowboys blitzed on the third-and-nine situation, as Bradshaw had anticipated, Harris followed tackle Ray Pinney through a hole created by Webster's block on Cowboy tackle Dave Stalls and dashed virtually untouched into the end zone.

Nobody has run in the Super Bowl the way Harris has. He holds the career and one-game rushing records—354 yards in 101 carries for four touchdowns over four games; 158 yards in 34 carries against the Vikings in IX. He also rumbled for 82 yards in X against the Cowboys, 68 yards in XIII against the Cowboys and 46 yards in XIV against the Rams when he caught three passes for 66 yards as well.

"We have championship blood in

Joe Namath,
quarterback, New York Jets





us," Harris once said.

In the Super Bowl, no Steeler has had more than him.

Larry Csonka, Miami Dolphins

THE ONLY SUPER Bowl runner to rush for more than 100 yards twice, Csonka dominated VII with 112 yards on 15 carries and VIII with 145 yards on 33 carries. True to his straight-ahead style, he never finessed any tacklers, usually to their dismay.

"It's nice to know," Csonka often said, "that you're punishing these guys as much as they're punishing you."

If not more so. His name and his style created a verb—to zonk. His personality created an aura of quiet authority. "This is a great team," he once said, "without an individual leader." But many people around those Dolphins believed that Csonka was the leader, certainly on offense, the one the others looked to as a ball carrier or as a blocker when the tough yards were needed. Csonka remembers peeking out of a pileup to see an official with his hands raised after he had blocked for his buddy Jim Kiick on the Dolphins' second touchdown in the 14-7 victory over the Redskins in game VII; that Super Bowl win completed Miami's perfect 17-0 season.

"It was," Csonka declares, "the happiest moment I could ever remember in football."

Wide Receivers

Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh Steelers

Two weeks before X, Swann was hospitalized for two nights with a concussion. When he returned to practice, he kept dropping passes. Cowboy safety Cliff Harris questioned his courage, wondering if he would be afraid to run patterns across the middle. But in the Steelers' 21-17 victory, he accumulated the astonishing total of 161 yards on only four receptions, including an acrobatic leap for a 53-yard gain, and scored the winning touchdown.

"The first catch seemed to loosen me up," he says. "I never had a day when I felt as loose as this in my life."

On other Super Sundays he's been loose enough. In XIII he caught seven passes for 124 yards and one touchdown; he also was the intended receiver on the controversial 33-yard pass-interference penalty against Cowboy cornerback Bennie Barnes that set up the fourth touchdown in that 35-31 thriller.

**Willie Wood, punt returner,
Green Bay Packers**



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through the African dust and mud, two Dodge Ramchargers driven by Malcom Smith and Rod Hall rumbled home, finishing one-two. Of all the 4-wheel drive vehicles specially prepared for this rugged challenge, once again Ram Tough Dodge led the pack.

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That kind of record says it all: Dodge trucks go beyond tough.



**DODGE
TRUCKS ARE
RAM TOUGH**

Swann holds two Super Bowl pass-receiving records with his 16 receptions for 364 yards; he shares another with teammate John Stallworth, each with three touchdowns.

Max McGee, Green Bay Packers



The Super Bowl

UN-LOVING MAX was on the bench in game I when he heard Vince Lombardi yelling for him. "Oh no," he said to Paul Hornung, "I think he's going to fine me \$5,000 for last night right here on television." But Lombardi was unaware that McGee had slipped out of the Packers' hotel after the 11 P.M. curfew and had not returned until shortly before the team's 8 A.M. pregame meal. The coach was only aware that he needed a wide receiver after Boyd Dowler limped to the sideline. Now the Chiefs were covering McGee loosely, and with good reason: he had

caught only three passes all season as a backup.

"If that dummy Starr throws me the ball," he told Hornung before the next Packer possession, "I'll be a hero."

Quarterback Bart Starr threw him the ball, and McGee caught seven passes for 138 yards and two touchdowns in a 35-10 Green Bay victory. The next year the Packers had a third-and-one at their own 40 when Starr surprised the Raiders with a pass to McGee for a 35-yard gain that led to a 23-7 lead in their 33-14 victory.

Tight End

Dave Casper, Oakland Raiders

Against the Vikings in XI, Casper knew the Raiders' passing plan was simple enough. "If the Vikings were going to drop off deep in their coverage," he recalls, "we were planning to come underneath. And that's what we did." He caught four passes for 70 yards and the first touchdown of the 32-14 rout. And in a tight end's other

responsibility, Casper was a savage blocker.

Tackles

Art Shell, Oakland Raiders

In the rout of the Vikings in XI, Shell demolished defensive end Jim Marshall as the Raiders rolled up 266 rushing yards. Most of those plays were run to the left side behind him, guard Gene Upshaw and occasionally tight end Dave Casper. "You do it down in the pits," Shell says. "And that's where we knew we could crush 'em." He helped crush the Eagles in game XV too.

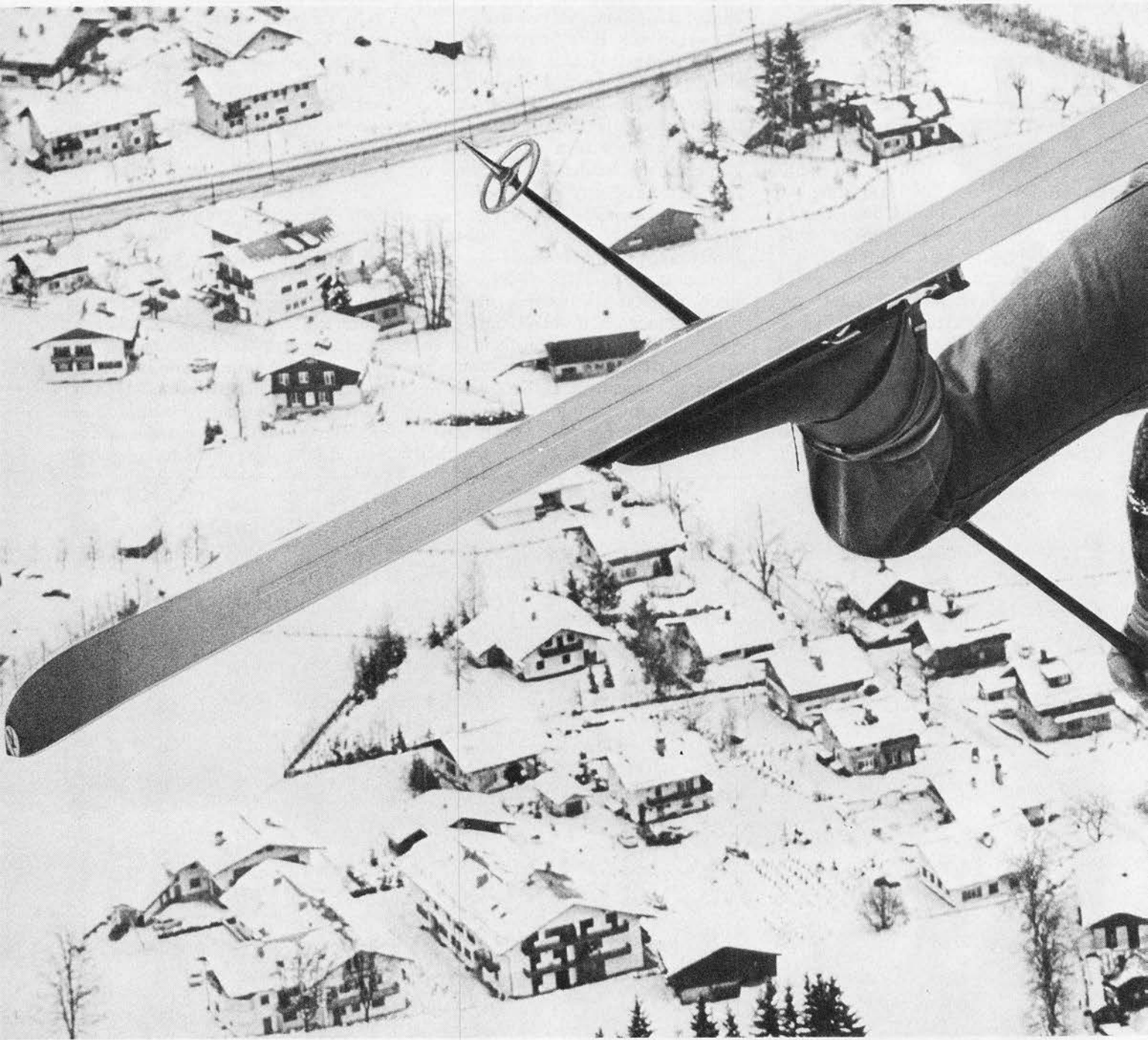
Dave Herman, New York Jets

Normally a guard, he had perhaps the Jets' single most difficult assignment in III—protecting Namath from Bubba Smith, the Colts' ogre. "The defensive end comes at you from a different angle than the tackle," Herman said. "You have to adjust your blocking techniques." But at a strange position and on a damaged ankle, he succeeded.



Jim Langer, center, Miami Dolphins

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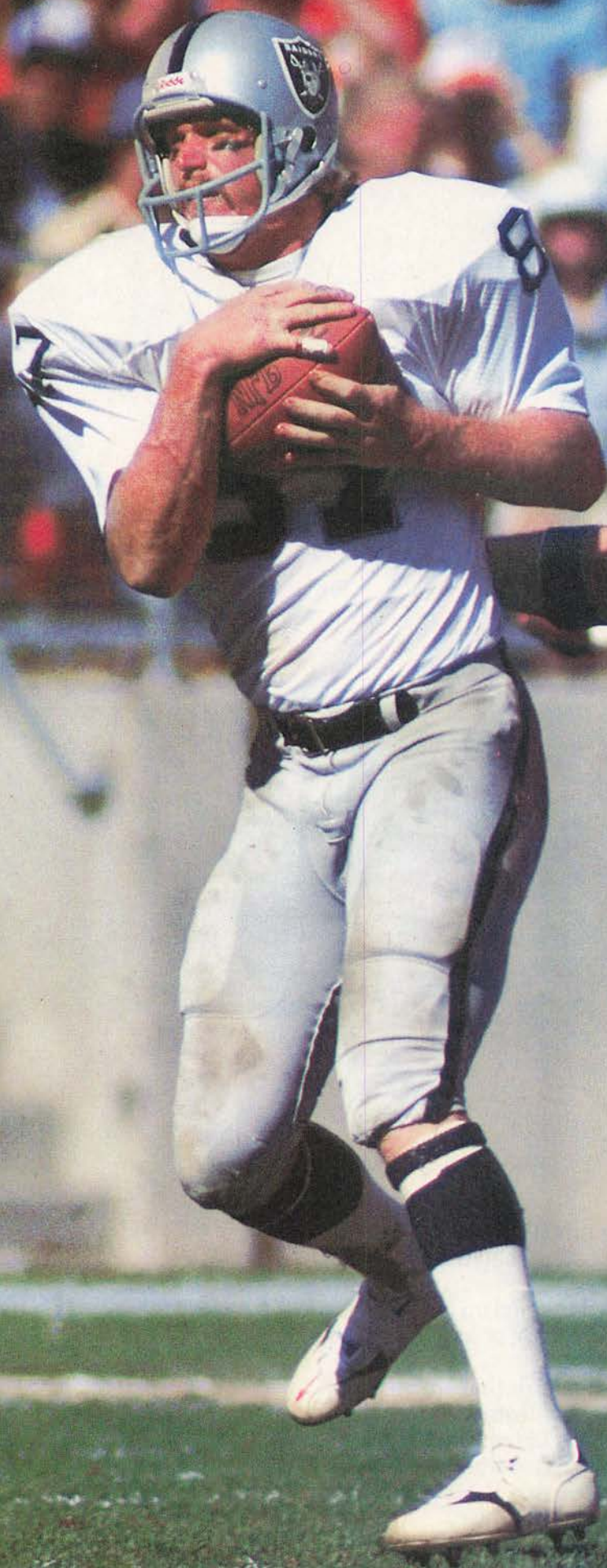
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As a result, so did Namath and so did the New York Jets.

Guards

Bob Kuechenberg, Miami Dolphins

IN ASSESSING THE 24-7 triumph over the Vikings in VIII, he said, "Man for man, I thought we just whipped 'em."

Man for man, Kuechenberg certainly whipped Alan Page, the defensive tackle who had once been his more celebrated Notre Dame teammate. The Dolphins controlled the ball so well that Bob Griese threw only seven passes, completing six. Kuech blocked with a cast on his fractured left arm, but that minor inconvenience didn't get in his way.

Gerry Mullins, Pittsburgh Steelers

Looking back now the Steelers seem to have been dominant in their four victories. But in game IX they had a slim 2-0 lead in the third quarter when Mullins' block on Viking linebacker Wally Hilgenberg sprung Franco Harris for a nine-yard touchdown and the eventual winning margin in that 16-6 game. Throughout four Super Bowl games this converted tight end was also a reliable pass blocker for Terry Bradshaw.

Center

Jim Langer, Miami Dolphins

Either cutting down the middle linebacker or double teaming a defensive tackle, he guided the Dolphins' ball-control offense in two triumphs—184 rushing yards against the Redskins in VII, 196 yards against the Vikings in VIII. "I never saw any of those Hall of Fame centers except Chuck Bednarik," says Don Shula, "but I think everybody in the NFL acknowledges Jim as the finest center ever to play the game."

Kicker

Jan Stenerud, Kansas City Chiefs

When the Chiefs' offense sputtered against Minnesota early in IV, the Norwegian-born, soccer-style kicker booted three field goals for a 9-0 lead, including a 48-yarder on his first attempt that is still a Super Bowl record. Later he added field goals of 32 and 25 yards. "But that long one lifted the whole team," recalls Hank Stram, the Chiefs' coach in that 23-7 triumph. "That's the one that made us think we could win, and made the Vikings start to wonder."

Defensive Ends

Harvey Martin, Dallas Cowboys

Martin's two sacks in XII were pivotal. He nailed Bronco quarterback

Dave Casper, tight end, Oakland Raiders



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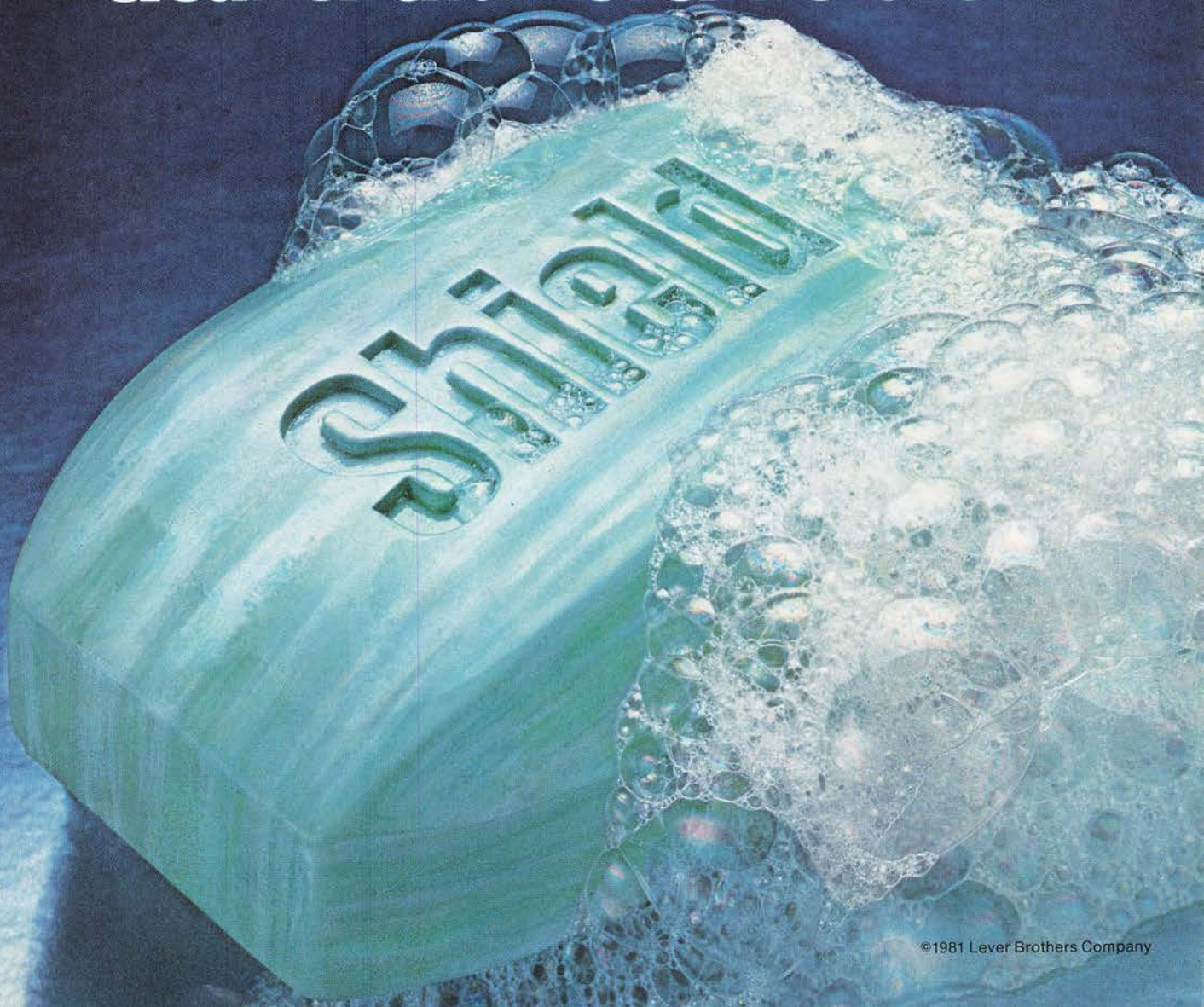


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Craig Morton for a nine-yard loss on third down just before the Cowboys got the ball and took a 20-3 lead; he jolted Norris Weese into a fumble that preceded the clinching touchdown of a 27-10 victory. "I wasn't double teamed, what a luxury," he said later. "And the Orange Crush is soda water, baby. You drink it. You don't win football games with it."

Dwight White, Pittsburgh Steelers

He's credited with one of only two safeties in Super Bowl history. Near the end of a hard first half in IX, the Steelers took an important 2-0 lead when "Mad Dog" downed Fran Tarkenton after the Viking quarterback had hurried into the end zone to recover his own fumble. White also had an apt description of the Steelers' four victories. "This," he said, "is a big footprint to leave behind."

Defensive Tackles

Manny Fernandez, Miami Dolphins

During their perfect 17-0 season, the Dolphins had a "No-Name Defense," but in the 14-7 victory over the Redskins in VII, Fernandez made a name for himself. He was credited with 11 tackles and six assists, mostly in smothering Larry Brown, the Redskins' all-pro running back that season. George Allen even learned his name. "Fernandez," the Redskin coach acknowledged, "did a fine job." Dolphin teammate Dick Anderson expressed it even better. "Fernandez," he said, "was all over the field."

Bob Lilly, Dallas Cowboys



NE PLAY IN game VI put

Lilly in Super Bowl history. In the first quarter of the Cowboys' 24-3 victory over Miami, the Dol-

The Super Bowl

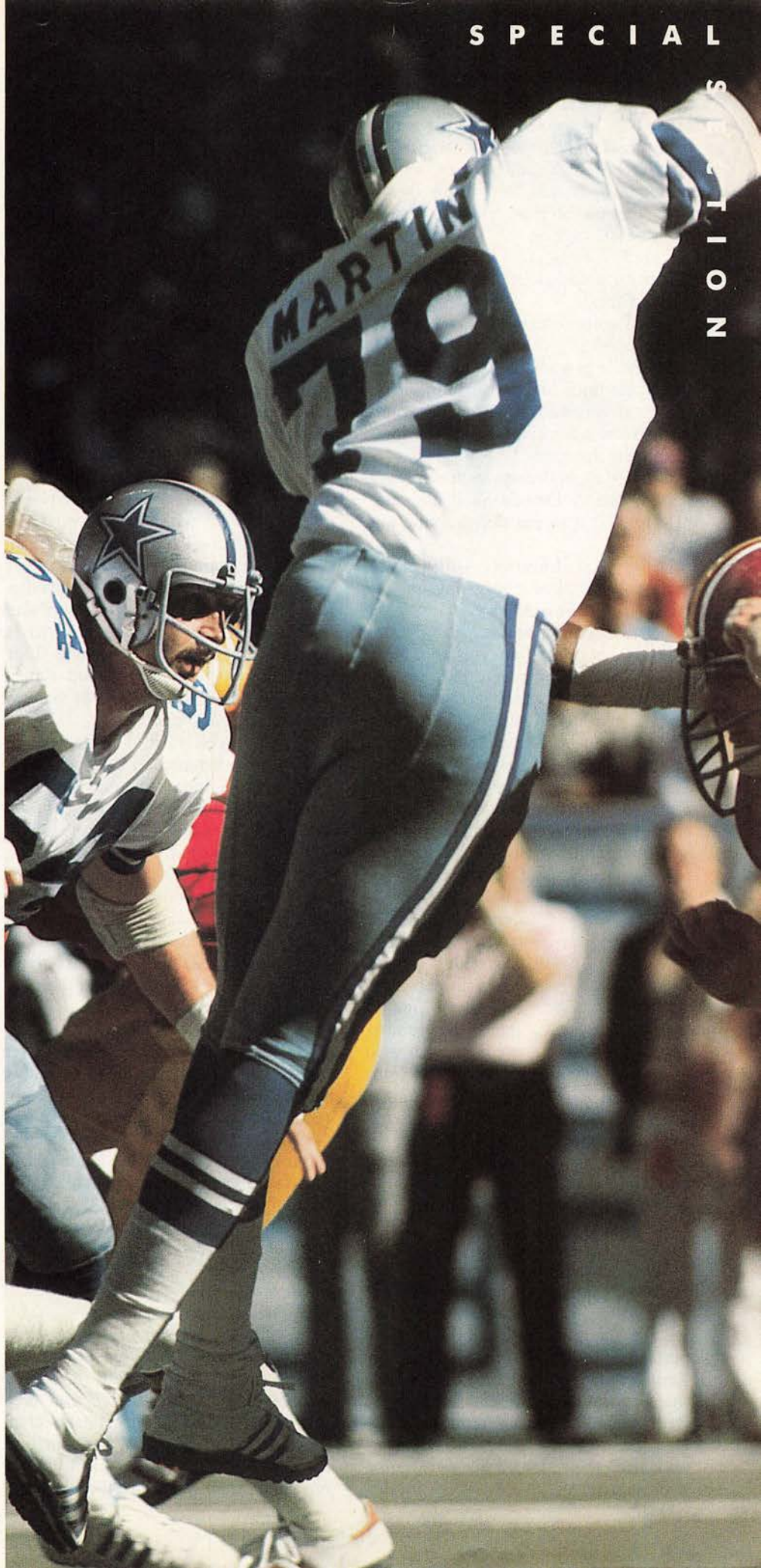
phins were on their own 38 when Bob Griese drifted back to pass. Suddenly he had to scramble. He darted one way, then another, as Lilly chased him. But the more agile quarterback could not escape the huge tackle. Lilly sacked him at the nine, a 29-yard loss that put the Dolphins in a hole from which they never recovered.

Middle Linebacker

Jack Lambert, Pittsburgh Steelers

At halftime of Super Bowl X, he was annoyed. "We were being intimidated," he would say later. "The Cowboys were taking it to us. But we should be the intimidators. I can't speak for the others but it had an effect on me." Early in the second half Cowboy safety Cliff Harris patted Roy

Harvey Martin,
defensive end, Dallas Cowboys



Gerela on the helmet and chuckled, "Nice going" after the Steelers' kicker missed a 33-yard field goal that would have created a 10-10 tie. Glaring at Harris, Lambert grabbed him by the shoulder pads and flung him down. After that the Steelers rallied and went on to a 21-17 victory.

"Jack Lambert," Steeler coach Chuck Noll said later, "is a defender of what's right."

Jack Lambert certainly is a defender. In the Steelers' triumph in game XIV they had a precarious 24-19 lead over the Rams until his interception led to the final touchdown. But his teammates remember his mood in the huddle during that game.

"Jack was hollering so hard I got scared," safety Donnie Shell has said. "He told us we were sleepwalking out there."

With Jack Lambert yelling, no Steeler sleepwalks for very long.

Outside Linebackers

Chuck Howley, Dallas Cowboys

The only player to win the MVP award on a losing team, Howley had two interceptions and jarred loose a fumble in a 16-13 defeat by the Colts in V. "The award is tremendous," he said, "but I wish it were the championship." The next year he got his championship after a 41-yard return of another interception set up the clinching touchdown in a 24-3 rout of Miami.

Rod Martin, Oakland Raiders

HIS THREE interceptions in the 27-10 triumph over the Eagles last season set a Super Bowl record. "I figured they'd be coming my way, what with [cornerback] Lester Hayes and [outside linebacker] Ted Hendricks on the other side," he said later of his two all-pro teammates. "People are always underestimating me. I'm only 6 feet 2 and 215 pounds. They don't think I'm big enough to play." They do now.

The Super Bowl

Free Safety
Jake Scott, Miami Dolphins

Scott's two interceptions in VII—despite a sore shoulder and a damaged wrist that later required surgery—helped the Dolphins complete their perfect 17-0 season. His first halted a Redskin drive at midfield; he returned the second out of the end zone to the Redskins' 48. "We weren't going to wait for the Redskins to lose it," Scott said after the game. "We were going after it ourselves."

Strong Safety

Jim Hudson, New York Jets

The flea-flicker that failed haunted Colt fans long after this game was played. Jimmy Orr was alone in the end zone but Earl Morrall threw instead toward Jerry Hill, and Hudson swerved in for the interception at the 12-yard line, preserving the Jets' 7-0 halftime lead. "Hudson was like a line-backer playing strong safety," Jet coach Weeb Ewbank often said. "And he made big plays." None bigger than that interception.

Cornerbacks

Herb Adderley, Green Bay Packers-Dallas Cowboys

In the first six Super Bowl games, this Hall of Famer was on three winning teams—in I and II with the Packers, in VI with the Cowboys; he also played in game V with Dallas. In those four games the wide receivers matched against Adderley (Otis Taylor, Fred Biletnikoff, Roy Jefferson and Howard Twilley) caught only 10 passes for 139 yards and no touchdowns. Late in II, his 60-yard interception return wrapped up the Packers' 33-14 victory.

Mel Blount, Pittsburgh Steelers

In the Steelers' four victories the wide receivers matched against Blount (Jim Lash, Golden Richards, Tony Hill and Billy Waddy) caught a total of only five passes for 124 yards and one touchdown. He also had two interceptions. In XIII he drifted out of his zone area for an interception that enabled the Steelers to take a vital 21-14 halftime lead. But why did he leave his zone? "I don't know," he said. "I guess that's part of being all-pro, being able to diagnose the play."

Punter

Jerrell Wilson, Kansas City Chiefs

His stats are all you need to know. He holds three Super Bowl punting records—highest average for one game (48.5 yards against the Vikings in IV), longest punt (61 yards against the Packers in I) and highest average for 10 or more punts (46.5 yards). "I felt I did pretty good," he said after IV. "At least the ball went past where the deep men were waiting."

Punt Returner

Willie Wood, Green Bay Packers

Wood's 31-yard punt return against the Raiders in II set a Super Bowl record that still stands, but he's best remembered for his interception in I that deflated the Chiefs shortly after the second half began. Wood snatched a third down pass near midfield and returned it 50 yards to the five-yard

line, setting up the touchdown that lifted the Packers into a 21-10 lead. They won, 35-10.

Kickoff Returner

Larry Anderson, Pittsburgh Steelers

No kickoff returner ever gave a Super Bowl offensive unit better field position than he did against the Rams in XIV. On five runbacks he put the Steelers at their own 47, 46, 39 (before a 15-yard penalty), 39 and 28. His five runbacks for 162 yards averaged 32.4 and set up two touchdowns. "Going into the game," he said, thinking of his performance in previous playoff games, "I was in my own doghouse." But he ran out of it.

Coach

Chuck Noll, Pittsburgh Steelers

After the Steelers won game XIV, Mean Joe Greene was asked to explain their fourth Super Bowl triumph.

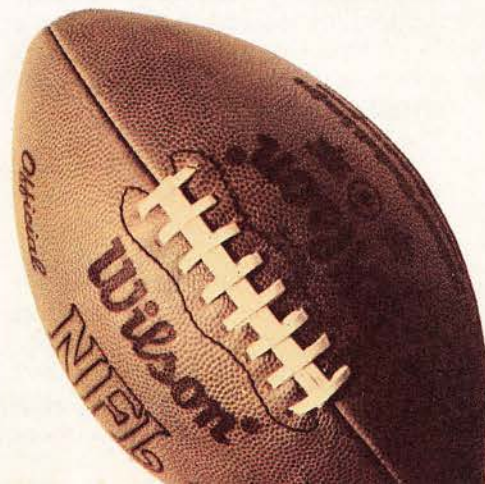
"Charles Henry Noll," the defensive tackle said. "He's the guy that keeps it going."

Vince Lombardi's Packers won twice, Don Shula's Dolphins won twice and Tom Landry's Cowboys also won twice, but Chuck Noll's Steelers have won four times—16-6 over the Vikings in IX; 21-17 over the Cowboys in X; 35-31 over the Cowboys in XIII; and 31-19 over the Rams in XIV.

"He kept telling us, 'We're going to be the best,' and we are," Steeler quarterback Terry Bradshaw once said. "You could see the writing on the wall for the guys who didn't think that way. They're gone."

That's the way it will always be as long as Noll is the coach of the Steelers.

In the years to come this all-time Super Bowl team surely will require changes, perhaps after the upcoming game, January 24, in the Pontiac Silverdome. You might already disagree with some of my choices. But this is my team. If you want to come up with your own players, fine. But they'd better be pretty special to play with these guys. ★





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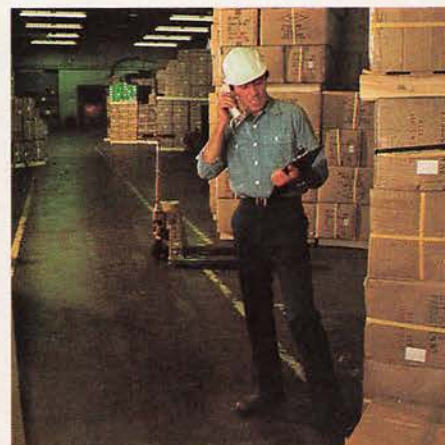
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KEVIN MAGEE

Continued from page 47

ley, got on the phone and called his old pal Bill Mulligan, the coach at Saddleback College, a two-year school in California. Holley said he had a wonderkind who needed a place to play. Mulligan's heart pounded. This kid was willing to go out and look at Saddleback. Mulligan's blood raced. Three months later, just before Christmas, Kevin Magee went west.

If anyone deserved a nice Christmas present, it was Bill Mulligan. A short, 50-year-old man with graying hair, a growing forehead and Ireland all over his face, Mulligan was a junior college coach who could have done better. He had coached high school basketball and football from the late 1950s through the mid-1960s, and produced players like Gene Washington and Mack Calvin. In 1965, the year UC Irvine was founded, Mulligan moved to USC as Forrest Twogood's sole assistant. When Twogood retired in 1966, Mulligan was passed over as his successor. They said he didn't look like a Trojan.

For the next 14 years, Mulligan coached in junior colleges, at Riverside and then at Saddleback, compiling a 332-118 record. In Mulligan's 13th season, Magee arrived. This time, Magee didn't turn around and check out.

"When I came to Saddleback he was more than just a coach to me," Magee recalls. "He became a personal friend. Most coaches fall on the floor to win and that's it. I could tell him things and he would tell me things. We have a close relationship. He says he's closer to me than any player he's ever had."

In a year and a half of playing for Mulligan, Magee led Saddleback to a 47-2 record. In his only full season, the Gauchos were 34-1, suffering their only loss in the semifinals of the state tournament. Magee's personal numbers that year were 29.3 points and 13.2 rebounds per game. He was named California's junior college co-player of the year.

"He was a man among boys in junior college," says Brigham Young assistant coach Roger Reid. "His rebounding was outstanding and he would consistently hit the 15- to 18-foot jump shot. He could also get out on the break and run."

Now the four-year colleges again were

interested in Kevin Magee. Among the schools he visited were Marquette, Nevada-Las Vegas and Hawaii. "We had 15 coaches at practice every day," Mulligan says. "Iowa's Lute Olson 'just happened to be in the neighborhood' one day. I remember thinking he must have taken a wrong turn at a red light."

Meanwhile, Mulligan was being recruited himself. He was offered the head coaching jobs at California State-Fullerton and at UC Irvine. "Coach told me he had a good chance at the Irvine job," recalls Magee. "He asked me if I wanted to go with him. I said yes."

Bill Mulligan's laughter echoes throughout Crawford Hall as a team workout turns into horseplay. It is a small gym—"Home of the Anteaters"—that seats 1,500. Two years ago, most of those seats were superfluous. The gym was known as "The Library," and the quiet was deafening. Mulligan and Magee quickly rendered the Crawford Hall seating plan obsolete. Sell-outs became commonplace as UC Irvine replaced a 7-20 log with a 17-10 record. Bill Magee laughs easily these days.

Kevin Magee had no doubts about

Stars without Spotlights

There are not a lot of Kevin Magees out there, but there are other outstanding college basketball players you won't hear about until they turn pro. Some of them play for small schools or junior colleges, some have been injured or red shirted. Others are underclassmen, and still others have been overshadowed by more publicized teammates.

To find the most gifted of the least known, we polled scouts, coaches and recruiters around the country. What we've come up with are the surprise picks of upcoming NBA drafts.

SENIORS

Cherokee Rhone, center, Centenary College. In his last two years at this small Louisiana school (Robert Parish's alma mater), "The Chief" has averaged 20 points and 10 rebounds a game while shooting 67 percent. At 6 feet 9, 215 pounds, he will be switched to power forward in the pros.

John Ebeling, center, Florida Southern College. Ebeling (6 feet 9, 230 pounds) averaged 21.5 points and 10 rebounds for Southern last year while leading them to the NCAA Division II championship. His statistics held up in

12 games against Division I schools.

Audie Norris, center/forward, Jackson State University. Very fast for a man 6 feet 9½, 235 pounds, and a good defensive player, Norris averaged 15 points and 11 rebounds in 1980-81.

Arndray Nicholson, forward, University of South Alabama. Although he's only 6 feet 5, Nicholson averaged 13.5 rebounds (to go with 21.4 points) a game at Trinidad Junior College. The pros are aware of South Alabama; the school had four players drafted in the first eight rounds last year.

David Williams, guard, Central Washington University. He's only 6 feet, 175 pounds, he's an NAIA player and he's been to three other schools in his college career. But he's also Gus and Ray Williams' brother. "With those genes," says a scout, "it's worth a gamble."

UNDERCLASSMEN

Michael Cage, forward, San Diego State. As a freshman last season, Cage was third in the country in rebounding, averaging 13.9 and grabbing 26 in one game. He also shot 56 percent from the field while scoring 11 points per game.

Jackie Fleury, guard, Idaho State.

Jackie came to Idaho State by way of El Camino Junior College. Considered the best point guard in California last year, he had 16 assists in the juco championship game. One authority told us, "The kid will put Idaho State on the map."

Michael Britt, guard/forward, University of the District of Columbia. Not only is UDC a Division II school, but Britt must play in the shadow of 7-foot Earl Jones. But this 6-foot-7 leaper got 21 points, 9.5 rebounds a game last year, along with 48 blocked shots in 26 games.

Doug Arnold, forward, Texas Christian University. Arnold averaged 17 ppg for Duquesne two years ago, but last year attended two different junior colleges and didn't play for either of them. A 6-foot-9 junior, he has definite pro potential, if not a pro attitude.

Roland Brooks, forward, College of the Sequoias. In Brooks' first year of organized ball, he averaged 14 points and 8 rebounds in this junior college's very disciplined and defense-oriented system. He only has 185 pounds on his 6-foot-7 frame, but he'll be bigger and better by the time he goes to the pros.

—John Capouya

KEVIN MAGEE

following Mulligan to Irvine. "I wanted to follow him so I wouldn't have to learn a new person or a new system." The Mulligan system is fast break basketball. In his last three years at Saddleback, Mulligan's teams averaged 107, 97 and 107.7 points per game. Averaging a mere 86.4 in Mulligan's first year at Irvine, the Anteaters were the highest scoring team in the nation.

The Irvine offense, not surprisingly, is built around the amazing Magee. Although physically he is perfectly suited to play power forward, Magee plays center simply because there is no one else at Irvine to fill the middle. Mulligan's fast break strategy is to lead with his strength, to get his big men—particularly the swift Magee—matched against the other team's guards. Magee will clear the defensive boards and sprint downcourt. "Centers can't run with him," says the coach. "There were games last year when teams didn't send anyone to their offensive boards because they were so conscious of our break."

In a slow-down offense, Magee presents a different problem, particularly

from the low post, where his power can be as awesome as his speed. One sequence from a game against conference rival Portland State last season was vintage Magee. Triple-teamed down low, Magee faked right, lost one defender, and spun strongly down the baseline for a reverse layup. The two remaining defenders tried to block his path but bounced off him. Magee pumped, double-pumped and dunked.

The pro scouts now know who Kevin Magee is. His performance last season suddenly made Magee an attractive—and marketable—commodity. Agents tried to convince him to go hardship last year, but Mulligan convinced Magee that his value could only increase with another year in school.

The World University games further boosted Magee's stock. "The thing I remember best about the game against Russia," says Boston College coach Tom Davis, who headed the team, "is not the 31 points or the truckload of rebounds he pulled down against guys 7 feet 1 and 7 feet 4, but the eight steals he made. We were playing a trapping defense and every time they tried to throw a long downcourt pass, Kevin stole it. Kevin

can do most anything on a basketball court."

Magee still must overcome several drawbacks in the minds of NBA teams. He must prove that he can play at a level much higher than his collegiate competition, and that he is not the immature wanderer he was before hooking up with Mulligan. He must also prove that he can play power forward, which he does in practice when Mulligan lets him put on a show for the scouts.

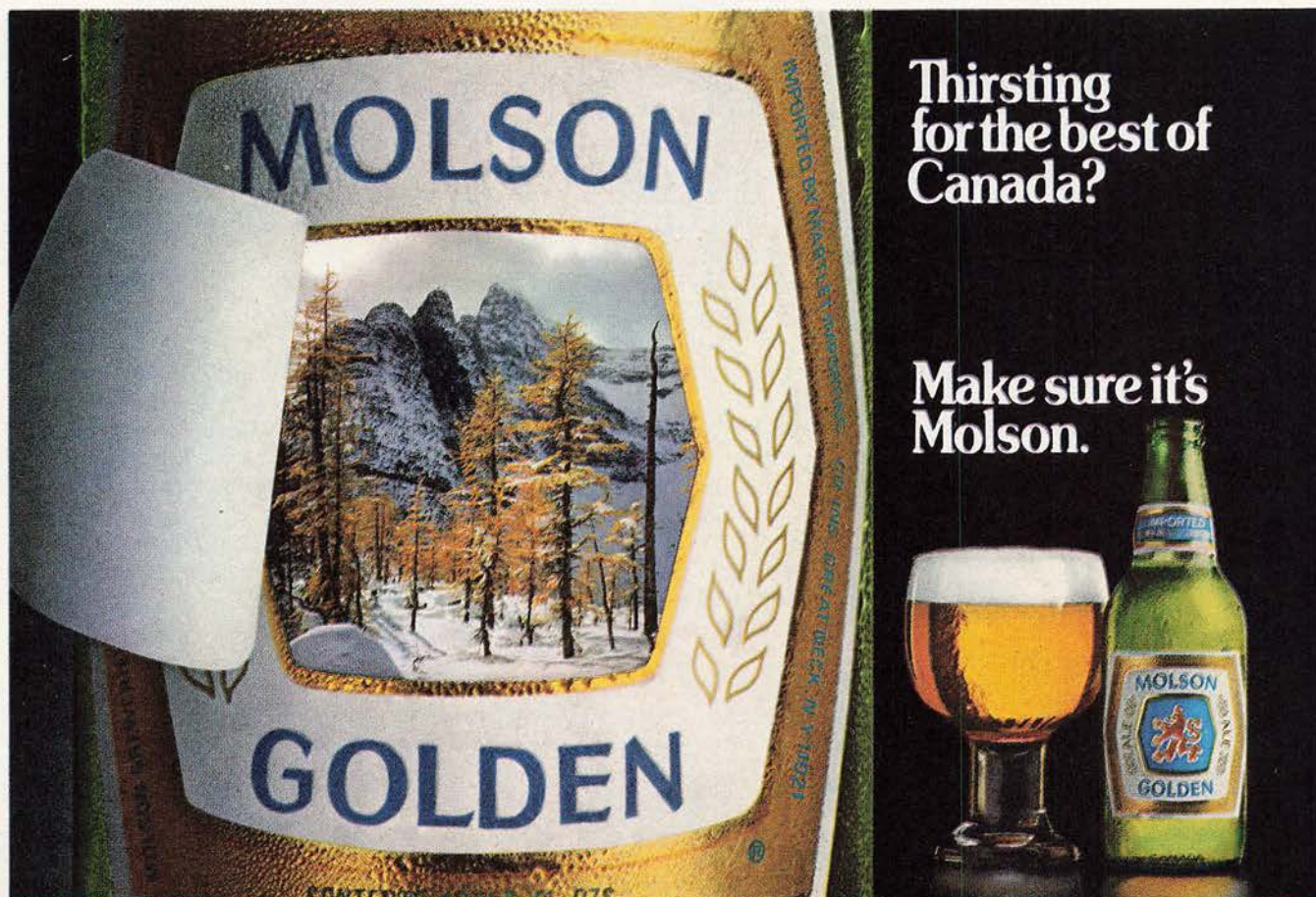
The NBA line on Magee is beginning to take shape. "Despite the questions about him, there is no doubt that he has the ability and will be a first round draft choice as a power forward," says Phoenix Suns GM Jerry Colangelo.

"It's up to Magee," says Marty Blake, who runs the NBA scouting service. "He can be one of the first ten players taken if he works at it."

Magee is working at it. In the off-season he lifted weights for three hours a day, then ran. "He smells the big money," Mulligan says.

And, no doubt, he can see the headlines too. ★

Stu Black is a freelance writer working out of New York and Los Angeles.

A large advertisement for Molson Golden beer. On the left, a close-up of a beer can with the label 'MOLSON GOLDEN' and a picture of a snowy mountain landscape. On the right, a glass of beer next to a bottle of Molson Golden. The text 'Thirsting for the best of Canada?' is at the top right, and 'Make sure it's Molson.' is below it. At the bottom, it says 'BREWED AND BOTTLED IN CANADA; imported by Martlet Importing Co., Inc., Great Neck, N.Y.'

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BUFFALO

Continued from page 38

back Joe Ferguson targets with ability equal to his own. In the next two seasons, Ferguson would average a 54 percent completion record and over 3,100 yards gained—easily the best figures of his career.

The one major trade Knox made that season also paid off well. That deal brought linebacker Isiah Robertson to Buffalo from Los Angeles, and was risky in several ways: Robertson was talented but controversial, and his acquisition forced Knox to break one of his principal rules. "We gave up a fourth choice for Robertson, even though we had vowed not to dip inside the top five," says Knox. "But we didn't have to give up the choice for two more years [it was a 1981 pick], so to me it was like giving up a sixth. We had him for two years before we gave up anything."

Robertson gave the Bills a fourth solid linebacker—to go with Sanford, Haslett and Nelson—with the savvy of an eight-year veteran. "I had enough faith in Chuck Knox to put my head on the block for him," says Robertson. "I just had the feeling he would bring Buffalo a championship."

The 1979 season ended with a 7-9 record. It was only a modest improvement, but more important for the Plan, the Bills played some of the best defense in the league over the second half of '79.

1980: Year of the Trades

Knox concentrated in his next draft on finding young talent to solidify his scoring attack, using the first five of eight picks he held for the first five rounds to acquire offensive players. On the first round he took center Jim Ritcher to back up Will Grant. On the second round he picked up running back Joe Cribbs (appropriately, with the last of the draft choices from the Simp-

son trade). Cribbs more than made up for the fall of Terry Miller; he became rookie of the year and one of the best all around backs in the league. On the third round, Knox chose Mark Brammer, who would be starting at tight end by the end of the season.

Equally important, Knox looked in earnest for experienced supporting players to fill out his team. He gave up wide receiver Bob Chandler to Oakland for nine-year veteran Phil Villapiano, who moved in behind Sanford at outside linebacker. The fabled Conrad Dobler, approaching his ninth year in the league, was rescued from New Orleans for a future draft choice and moved into the starting right guard position. Wide receiver Ron Jessie was picked up from L.A. for a future draft pick and slated for spot duty behind Frank Lewis. Safety Bill Simpson also was acquired from the Rams, for another future draft pick, when second-year free safety Jeff Nixon was disabled by an early-season knee injury.

Each of those veterans had been considered over-the-hill, dead weight. "I didn't hesitate to pick up any one of them," Knox explains. "But I made sure I checked them out first. For where we were in rebuilding our program, what I wanted was guys with experience who could tell our club what it was like in other places. Guys who knew what it took to be winners. Let's face it, we got four starters out of those trades and we didn't give up a hell of a lot."

Jessie was important to another strategic decision. Buffalo became only the second team in the league to adopt the shotgun formation, with Jessie used as a designated receiver in obvious passing circumstances. The Bills finished the season with the league's best third-down efficiency. A year later, in 1981, about a third of the league added the shotgun to their offense.

In another deal, Knox sent former

all-pro guard Joe DeLamielleure to Cleveland for a future draft choice. Though DeLamielleure was effective and popular in Buffalo, he and Knox didn't get along. That made him expendable. There would be only one leader, the man with the Plan.

In 1980 the Plan exploded into success. The Bills finished the season with an 11-5 record and their first playoff spot since 1974. The defense led the league in fewest yards allowed and was third in fewest points allowed. Joe Cribbs joined Jerry Butler and Fred Smerlas in the Pro Bowl. The man with the Plan was named coach of the year.

The Next Phase

For the first year in his time at Buffalo, Knox entered 1981 with essentially the same starting team that finished the year before. For a coach who is not afraid to make changes, that is probably the surest signal that the rebuilding is over. There are still some spots to fill, notably at fullback and on the bench, and there is undoubtedly some tinkering to come to make up for the shortcomings of this season. But those are Phase II problems. Phase I, the construction of a competitive team—the elusive achievement of turning a loser into a winner—is history.

Knox rebuilt the Bills in the same fashion as the Bills play—well organized, aggressive, opportunistic. He had some luck, struck fast and varied his attack. Now he has to change gears to keep his lead. "One thing we won't do is sit still," Knox promises. "You don't get ahead that way."

The rebuilding is finished, although Knox clearly isn't. "I try to learn something every day," says Knox, the pragmatist. "I've always been that way. No one in this business has all the answers." ★

Will McDonough covers football for the Boston Globe.

SPORT QUIZ

Answers from page 74. 1-c. 2-a. 3-Tommy Prothro (Iowa, Michigan, UCLA). 4-Willie Brown (1977). 5-b. 6-Tom Matte, Baltimore Colts, 1969. 7-a-Pittsburgh; b-Denver; c-Philadelphia; d-Oakland. 8-Norm Van Brocklin, Bob Waterfield. 9-d. 10-Ewell Russell. 11-c. 12-Al Attles. 13-c. 14-a. Answer to last month's Stumper (Who is the only person ever to score a goal in the NASL and a field goal in the NFL?): Momcilo "Gabbo" Gavric, San Francisco 49ers, 1969; San Jose Earthquakes, 1976-1978.

PICTURE CREDITS

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24-Carl Skalak Jr. 26,27,28-Jerry Wachter/Focus on Sports. 31-Ron Berard. 34,35-Fred Kaplan (left), John D. Hanlon (center), Rich Pilling (right). 37-Dan Helms/Duomo (left), Fred Kaplan (right). 38-Rich Pilling. 40,41,42 (top)-Steve Goldstein. 45,47-John McDonough. 50-Vernon J. Biever. 53-Marvin E. Newman. 54-Bob Peterson. 57-Rich Pilling. 60-Carl Skalak Jr. 63-Tony Tomsic. 74-By number: 5,11-Wide World, 10-Rich Pilling, 12-UPI, 13-Bill Jennaro, 14-Clifton Boutelle.

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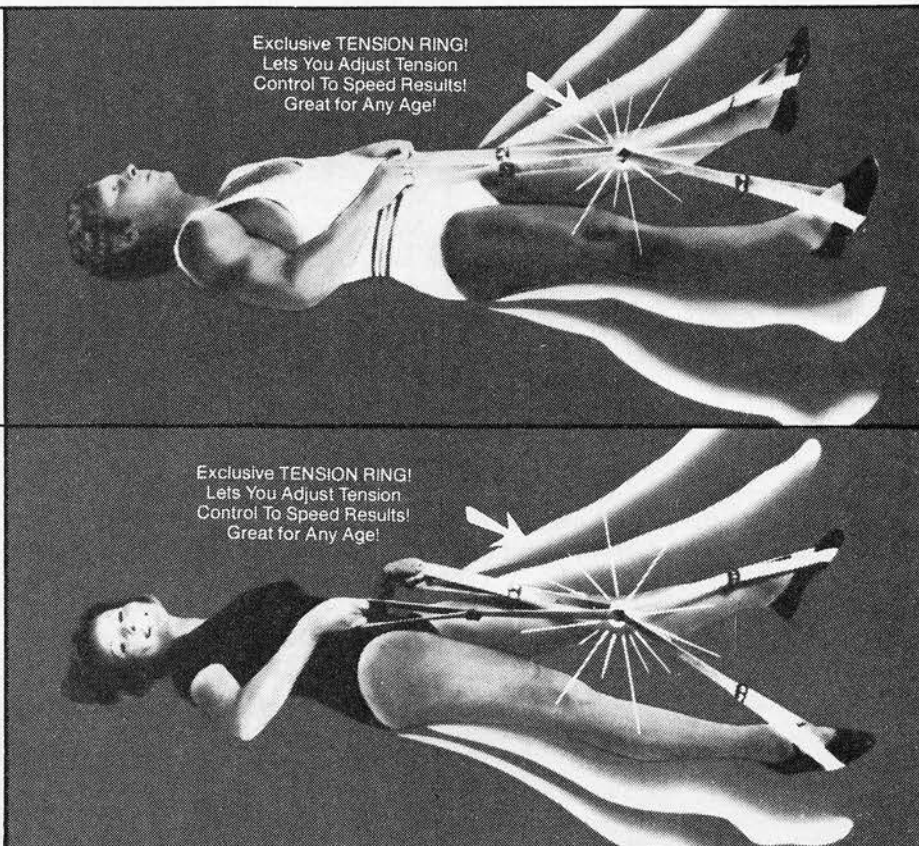
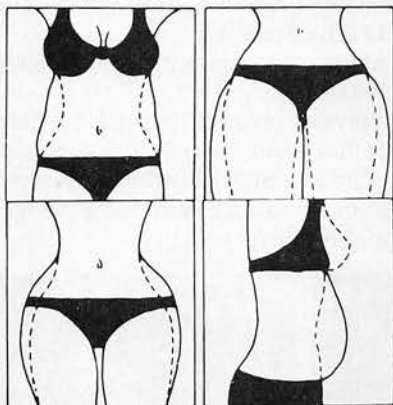
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SPORT QUIZ

Come up with the correct answer to the 15th question—The Stumper—and drop it in the mail. In case of a tie, a drawing will determine the three winners. The answer to The Stumper will appear next month; all other answers can be found on page 72. (Note: The pictures shown do not necessarily indicate the correct answers.) Send entries to Sport Quiz, 641 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022, by January 8.

1. Which college football team has the most victories in the history of the Cotton Bowl (9)?
a. Notre Dame
b. Oklahoma
c. Texas
d. Texas A&M
2. Which team has lost the most bowl games (13)?
a. Alabama
b. Penn State
c. LSU
d. Tennessee
3. What former coach led three different schools into the Rose Bowl and once played on a Rose Bowl team (Duke) himself?
4. Who holds the record for the longest return of an interception in Super Bowl history?

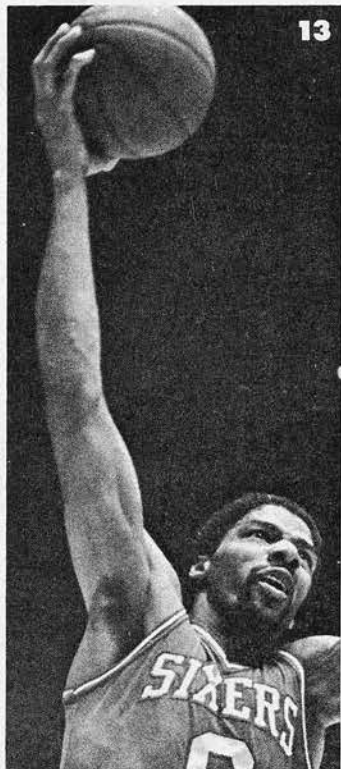
5. Which player has scored the most points in the Super Bowl over the course of a career (24)?
a. Don Chandler
b. Franco Harris
c. Roy Gerela
d. Pete Banaszak
6. Who made the longest run from scrimmage in Super Bowl history (58 yards)?
7. Match these players with their Super Bowl teams.
a. Mike Kruczek 1. Philadelphia
b. Ron Egloff 2. Oakland
c. Ken Clarke 3. Denver
d. Mario Celotto 4. Pittsburgh
8. Name the only two quarterbacks in the Hall of Fame who played together on the same team.
9. Which baseball player holds the mark for the most pinch-hit appearances in a season (78)?
a. Manny Mota
b. Jay Johnstone
c. Greg Gross
d. Jose Morales
10. Last season, Fernando Valenzuela tied a major league record for most shut-outs by a rookie (8). Whose record did he match?
11. Which of the following players *never* led the NBA in scoring?

- a. Dave Bing
b. Rick Barry
c. Elgin Baylor
d. Elvin Hayes
12. On March 2, 1962, Wilt Chamberlain poured in 100 points for the Philadelphia Warriors in their victory over the New York Knicks. What current NBA coach was the Warriors' second-leading scorer that night?
13. Who holds the NBA record for most steals in a game (11)?
a. Jerry West
b. Brian Taylor
c. Larry Kenon
d. Julius Erving
14. Which NHL player has accumulated the most penalty minutes in a season (472)?
a. Dave Schultz
b. Tiger Williams
c. Nick Fotiu
d. Paul Holmgren

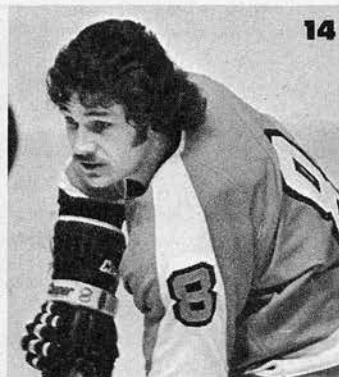
15. The Stumper

Answer this question and win a Sport T-shirt.

Only one player in the NFL has been on both a team that went undefeated en route to a Super Bowl victory and on a team that did not win one game all season. Name him.



13



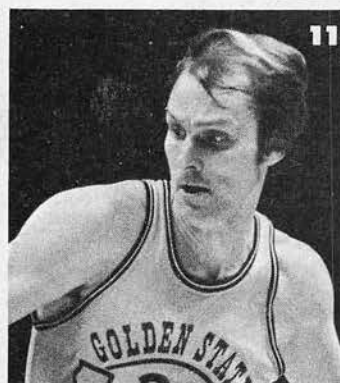
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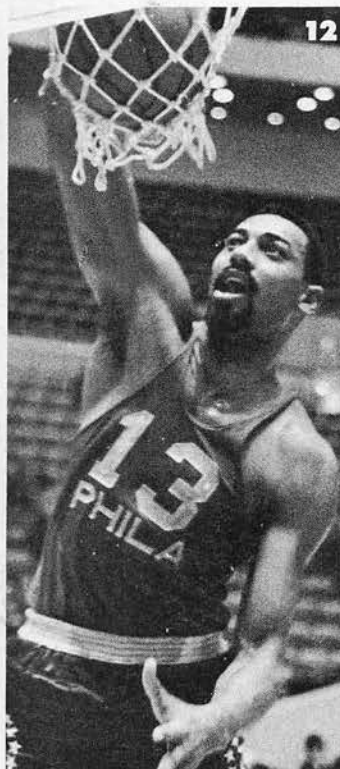
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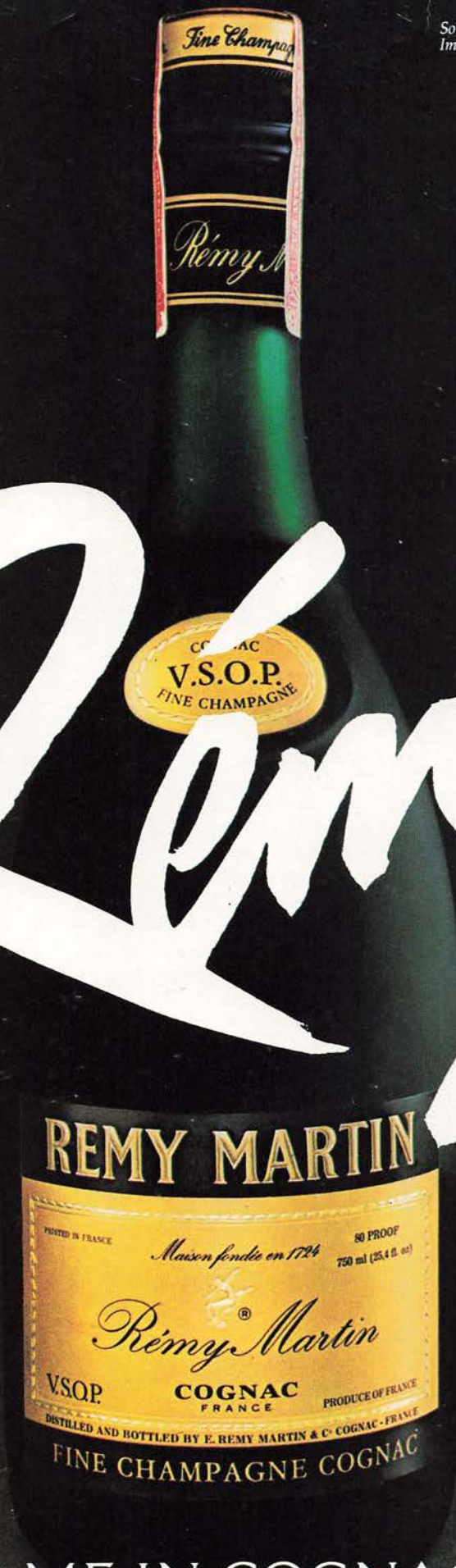
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12

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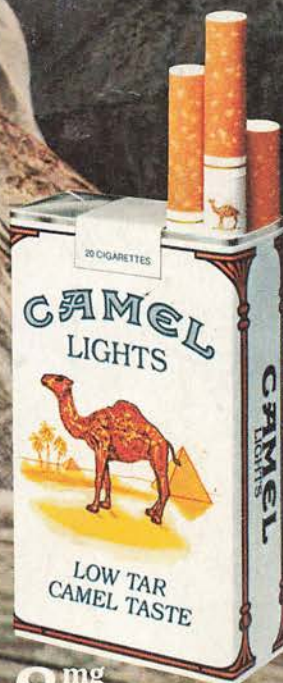
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